

DCS

~~SECRET~~
MEMORANDUM

2045

Jan. 20, 1979

To: Mr. Alar A. Gise, Deputy Ass't Secretary for Overseas
Consular Services
THRU: LOIS M DAY, Director, OFFICE OF CITIZEN'S CONSULANT SERVICES
Thru: Mr. Carmen A. DiPlacido, Chief CCS/EUR

From: Charles M. Wyman, Dover Air Force Base *C.M.W.*

Subj: After-Action report on Guyana Support Project

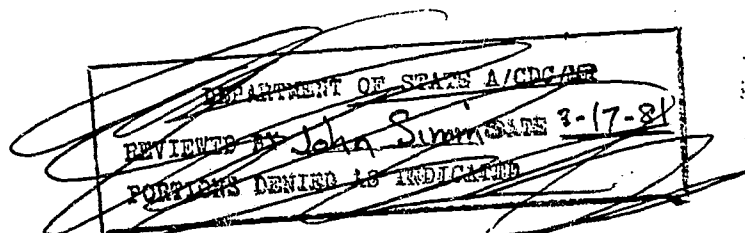
The attached report covers only the period of my assignment to Dover Air Force Base from Dec. 15, 1978 through Jan. 19, 1979. Enclosed is a chart showing in summary form the numbers of bodies identified, released etc. During my assignment here a total of 165 bodies were released from the Dover Air Force Base Mortuary. Also enclosed is a packet of press clippings in photo-copy form which may be useful to the Department.

My travel orders expire on Jan. 29, 1979. However, I have no objection in continuing my assignment here if the Department so desires.

Enclosures:

1. Report on Work Performed at Dover
2. Mortuary Compilation
3. Press Clippings

Taken care of



DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>J. Amott</i>	DATE <i>2/1/82</i>
RDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
REASON EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒	
REASON DENIED ☐	
EA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

GUYANA SUPPORT PROJECT AT DOVER A.F. BASE

I was first requested by Mr. Carmer DiPlacido to proceed to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware on Friday, Dec. 15, 1978 to serve as a replacement for Mr. Bruce Dozier and Mr. Michael White, attorney-advisors, who had been at the Base for one month. Preliminary instructions regarding the purpose of my assignment were provided by Mr. DiPlacido. After arrival in Dover I was briefed by Mr. Dozier and Mr. White, the latter remaining for two days to give me orientation. My principal task was to release administratively the identified bodies to the funeral homes in this area for either cremation or burial, or for onward shipment to other parts of the country. I was also expected to resolve any other problems of any nature arising in connection with the Department's interest in the movement of the bodies. My desk was in the Base Mortuary. During the evening hours I found I was the only live person in the building. Administrative release of the bodies could be made only when all funeral requests were complete and in proper order. Valid burial or cremation orders were a prerequisite in order to prevent the Department from incurring legal liability for improper release of the bodies. To accomplish this it was necessary to perform numerous related functions. Some of these functions are described in this report.

Responding to Telephone Requests

The telephone literally rang "off the hook" for 8-10 hours daily, and still continues to do so. Typical of the telephonic requests would be (a) requests from next-of-kin for further information or clarification concerning funeral instructions, (b) relatives or friends would phone asking if certain names were on identified lists, (c) calls from Congressmen, newspapers and relatives. On Jan. 12th, for example, there were four Congressional inquiries. Calls from California came in evening hours because of the time difference. Numerous "self-appointed" and legitimate funeral directors would call with offers to transport and/or bury the deceased. These callers were referred to Mr. DiPlacido's office. Written offers were forwarded to the Department. One caller telephoned every few days requesting that "any body" be shipped to her so that she could arrange a funeral service. Some callers criticized the Department; others were sympathetic.

Processing Funeral Authorizations

Quite frequently the telegram or letter requesting funeral services proved to be faulty or defective. It was necessary to arrange through the funeral directors or directly with the next-of-kin to re-send the authorization. At times the deceased was not identified properly in the authorization. It also has not been uncommon for requests to be received for funeral services for persons not yet identified as deceased or even for persons who were not in Guyana. At times a funeral company would lose documentation. For example on Jan. 19, 1979 at 8 p.m. United Airlines telephoned from Philadelphia stating that documentation had been lost. I was able to provide duplicate documentation, have the funeral company make a special trip to Philadelphia with the documentation in time so that the documentation arrived in time in San Francisco so that a scheduled funeral service could proceed as planned.

Processing Mail

Considerable mail has been received here enclosing such documents as dental charts, x-rays, medical records, and snap-shots. These were forwarded to Col. William Cowan, Deputy Chief, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. who is conducting the identification of deceased. When these letters also requested information as to whether or not certain named persons were identified as deceased, I would telephone the writer and supply the data. This was a faster method of responding and I believe was appreciated by the writers especially as some had written complaining that earlier letters of inquiry had remained unanswered.

Liaison With Base Personnel

It was necessary that I visit the Base Information Office each day briefly and talk to Major Robert Groom. The purpose was to determine what type of media inquiries had been received and to coordinate the Base replies and Base press releases with information I had received from the Department's Press Office. Also I visited the Judge Advocate General's Office, the Deputy Base Commander's Office (Col. McDonald) and the Base Commander's Office (Col. Charles Renner).

Liaison With Funeral Directors

The funeral directors of Dover have been using this office as a central point of information to advise me in advance of plans to pick up bodies, to clarify authorizations, to learn the names and phone numbers of next-of-kin, and to learn the latest Delaware and New Jersey interment and cremation regulations.

Liaison With the Department

Liaison was maintained daily with the Department principally with Mr. Carmen LiPlacido, Mr. Jay Mini, Mr. Thomas Glover, Mr. Reed Clark, Mr. Michael White, Mr. Bruce Dozier, Mr. Fred Heneke and Miss Mary Ann Yoden.

Daily Mortuary Report

In order to portray the overall story in a readily understandable chart form, a "Guyana Mortuary Report" was telecopied to the Department at the close of each business day. This report was photo-copied on the Base and distributed to interested offices here. As a result, the latest figures were in the hands of the Base Commander, Deputy Commander, Information Office, Judge Advocate General's Office, and the Mortuary Officer late each afternoon. The Pentagon also called for these figures at 6 p.m. each day. (See attached chart)

Death Certificates

Death certificates received from the Department by courier have been given to the appropriate funeral homes. Because of the funeral homes' propensity for losing documents, I have had to ask each funeral home to sign a receipt for each death certificate received. One funeral home, for example, insisted a body had not been released to them only to discover the body one week later in their garage. Our receipt had shown the day and minute he had picked up the body.

Media Relations

Relations with the media have generally been good although at times the media has blown stories all out of proportion. Two Dover newspapers "The Morning Journal" and the "Delaware State News" regularly telephone for the latest body figures. Other segments of the media heard from include the "Baltimore News American", "San Francisco Examiner", WRK-TV of Newark, Delaware, WDEL (Delaware) T.V. and several Mid-West newspapers. On Jan. 9, 1979 the New York Times (with whom I had not spoken) distorted completely some information I had given earlier to another newspaper. The original statement "The next-of-kin, in many instances have not claimed their deceased" was distorted to read "Nobody wants to do anything about it" - thus suggesting a criticism by me of Washington - which, of course, I did not make.

Special Legal Problems

E 3-6

One case (~~Ponnie Jean Simon~~) required considerable efforts to resolve and at one point threatened to involve the Department. The facts, which were related to Mr. DiPiscido and Mr. Dozier, concerned a body which was being claimed by two persons. The father demanded the body for burial; the mother (living in another state after her divorce) demanded the body for cremation. Each side adamantly refused to yield to the other; each side obtained legal counsel; each side had equal preference right to the body; each side refused to speak to the other except via long distance calls to me in Dover. The mother called her Congressman who promptly telephoned here. The Congressman stated that he was glad I had to resolve the problem and not him and he stated I needed the wisdom of Solomon to resolve it. After 10 days of mediating the dispute the mother decided to yield to the father. She sent a telegram cancelling all previous funeral instructions thus clearing the way for the father to bury the deceased. The burial was scheduled for Jan. 20, 1979.

Another legal problem in its incipient stage is that in two cases multiple demands are being made for the death certificate (or Report of Death). The typical case is where one person who is not necessarily the next of kin interrs the body and the actual next of kin did not pay for the funeral. Following this, both parties demand the certificate. I believe the Department will be faced with similar demands shortly.

Summary

To sum up, I believe that all the problems that have arisen thus far in this office at Dover Air Force Base have been handled satisfactorily. There has been little, if any, let up in the amount of work that has to be performed as there are many unclaimed and unidentified bodies. If the Department is faced with a similar ordeal in the future, I believe the experience gained from the procedures established here will aid immeasurably in handling the problem.

c.o.b. JAN. 19, 1979 [FRI.]

GUYANA MORTUARY REPORT

913
DECEASED

→ 639
IDENTIFIED

→ 274
NOT
IDENTIFIED

→ 311
IDENTIFIED
RELEASED

→ 328
IDENTIFIED
BUT NOT
RELEASED

→ DAILY RELEASES
TO FUNERAL HOMES
IN DOVER:

DEC. 20, '78	=	22
DEC. 21	=	2
DEC. 22	=	8
DEC. 23	=	3
DEC. 26	=	10
DEC. 27	=	4
DEC. 28	=	1
DEC. 29	=	1
DEC. 30	=	3
JAN. 2, '79	=	0
JAN. 3	=	2
JAN. 4	=	12
JAN. 5	=	0
JAN. 8	=	0
JAN. 9	=	1
JAN. 10	=	1
JAN. 11	=	0
JAN. 12	=	4
JAN. 15	=	3
JAN. 16	=	1
JAN. 17	=	4
JAN. 18	=	0
JAN. 19	=	15

Number of bodies
on the A.F. BASE = 602

COMPILED BY
CHAS. WYMAN
DEPT. OF STATE
DOVER A.F. BASE
(302) 678-6681

c.o.b. JAN. 19, 1979 [FRI.]

GUYANA MORTUARY REPORT

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Morning News, Wilmington, Del., Friday, Dec. 22, 1978

Body count

U.S. vows Feb. 1 Dover decision

By PAT ORDOVENSKY
and MARK MATTHEWS
Jannett News Service

WASHINGTON -- The State Department told a delegation of Delawareans yesterday it will decide by Feb. 1 how to dispose of the unclaimed Peoples Temple bodies remaining at Dover Air Force base.

"I think that's a reasonable amount of time," said Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr., who announced the deadline at a news conference after the State Department meeting.

But Evans said he and others made it clear they expect the final solution to involve moving the bodies out of Delaware.

"Most Delawareans feel rather strongly that [their state] is not a proper final resting place," he told a news conference at the Capi-

Delaware residents were not involved in Guyana and Delaware could not have to bear the burden

of this problem," the Republican congressman said.

Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., said the State Department also repeated a promise made to him last month that none of the bodies would be buried in Delaware. Roth was represented at the meeting by an aide.

Evans said the Feb. 1 deadline was offered by Barbara M. Watson, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, the host for yesterday's meeting of federal and state officials. Evans described both State Department and Pentagon representatives as "sympathetic" to Delaware's problem.

The problem, as Evans describes it, is a Delaware law that requires a thorough investigation, including an autopsy, of deaths occurring in unusual circumstances before a death certificate can be issued. The certificate is necessary to bury or cremate a body in Delaware.

"Delaware is a small state" and does not have the resources to con-

duct that kind of investigation on more than 600 bodies, he told the room full of reporters and TV cameras.

The solution Delaware officials favor, he said, is moving the bodies en masse to California, the home of most of the Jonestown victims.

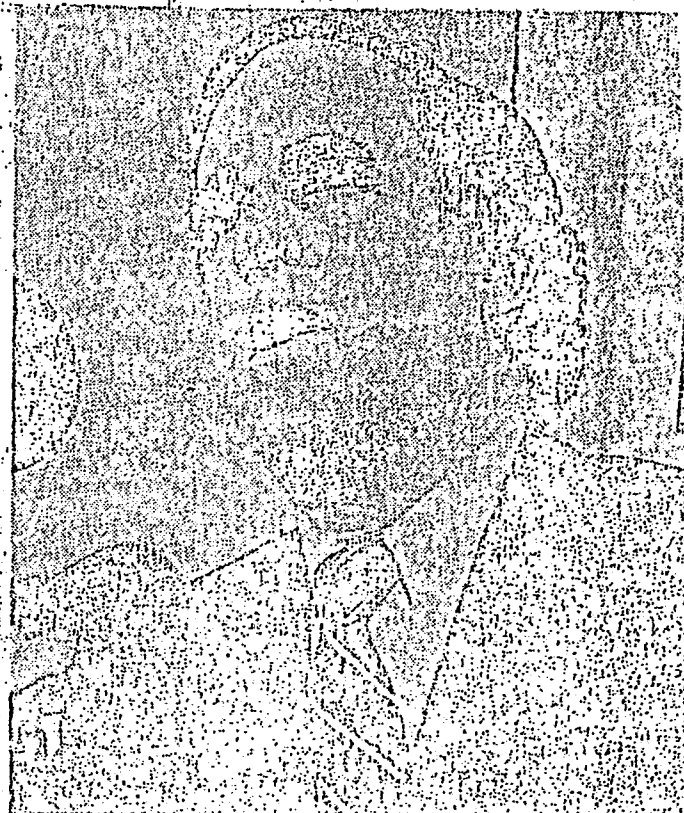
But State Department and Pentagon officials are reluctant to move the bodies anywhere else at taxpayer expense after criticism of the federally financed airlift from Guyana to Dover.

The Justice Department still is considering legal action to obtain the assets of the Peoples Temple, reportedly totaling millions of dollars, to finance the final disposition of the bodies. That's one reason a decision is still more than a month away, Evans said.

But Evans said he's not concerned about the additional federal expense.

"If we spent \$4 million already [to ship the bodies from Guyana].

See BODIES—Page 2, Col. 3



Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr., R-Del., tells a news conference in Washington yesterday that the federal government will decide by Feb. 1 how to dispose of remaining bodies from the People Temple mass killing. (UPI)

Bodies—

Continued from Page One

The cost of moving them by C5A to California would be very small in relation to the amount already spent." He estimated the cost of a Delaware-to-California airlift at \$100,000.

An Evans aide said the bodies easily could be handled at Travis Air Force Base in California which has a morgue similar to Dover's.

The congressman said 670 bodies remain of the more than 900 brought to Dover. He said the Pentagon hopes to complete the identification "in a matter of days."

But with 290 bodies still unidentified, the process of identification at Dover has come to a halt while officials await more fingerprints from Guyana.

No new identifications were made yesterday, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology reported.

Col. William Cowan, who heads the institute's identification team, said last night the team was awaiting as many as 90 fingerprints from Guyana.

Guyanese authorities had earlier provided fingerprints of adult victims, made when the adults entered the country. Early last week, however, U.S. officials discovered they lacked a number of prints, Cowan said.

He said the institute probably could make no more identifications until the prints arrive. All possible identifications based on available dental and medical records have been completed. Although the team is still awaiting more fingerprints of adults, many unidentified bodies are those of children from whom no prints were taken in Guyana, he said.

The pathology team, meanwhile, has left the Dover Air Force base and returned to Washington, although it is prepared to resume identifying work there based on material gathered in Dover.

Only two bodies left the base yesterday.

Base mortuary officer Charles Carson said his staff was busy yesterday moving all remaining bodies from the mortuary to a warehouse, and thus he had not summoned morticians to claim 10 or 12 bodies ready for release.

But he also said the number of requests from relatives seeking to claim bodies has dropped.

At yesterday's Washington meeting, arranged by Evans' office, were State Reps. Robert W. Riddaugh, R-Smyrna, and Michael J. Harrington, R-Dover, plus aides to Roth, Sen Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., and Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV.

Sunday News Journal, Wilmington, Del., December 10, 1978

Cultists' bodies begin final trip

By MARY JO MEISNER

DOVER — Three weeks after they apparently took their own lives at their leader's command, some of the victims of the mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana, began moving toward their final resting places.

At midday yesterday, as rain poured on the Dover Air Force Base, the first three bodies to be transferred were loaded into hearses belonging to local funeral homes. By the end of the day, a total of nine bodies had left the base, where they had been since late November.

No family members were present.

An air base spokesman said "a couple of more" bodies are expected to be moved today, but added, that "could change." Tomorrow, when base pathology personnel have returned from the weekend, the process of moving the bodies will undoubtedly pick up, he said.

"It probably will be a five-day-a-week thing," he said.

By 4 p.m. Friday, 592 of the bodies had been identified, but how quickly they are removed from the base depends upon arrangements made between victims' families and local morticians, the spokesman said. At-

Delawareans transplanted to San Francisco talk about Peoples Temple and the assassination of the mayor. A-15.

tempts to identify the remaining 319 bodies will resume tomorrow.

About 10 Dover-area funeral homes will be handling the bodies, according to Harry Pusey of Torbert Funeral Chapel. He said Torbert has received "several requests, half of them to cremate the bodies here, the other half to ship to the West Coast, to the South, all over."

Although several other funeral directors also have apparently received requests to cremate bodies, "they wouldn't be in the position to move them out of the air base at the moment," according to David S. Swayze, legal counsel to Gov. Pierre S. Du Pont IV.

Cremation or burial in Delaware "creates a very serious legal problem," one that has yet to be resolved with the U.S. State Department, Swayze said. "It requires an adequate death certificate, in our judgment."

No death certificates were issued in Guyana because Guya-

nese law requires an autopsy before such a certificate can be issued, according to a State Department spokeswoman in Washington.

Late Friday afternoon, a contingent of Delaware and State Department officials worked out an agreement allowing claimed and identified bodies scheduled to be sent to other states to leave Delaware without death certificates. The settlement came after the State Department presented Delaware officials with a signed letter, certifying that the bodies were legally removed from Guyana.

The agreement cleared the way for the release of the first bodies yesterday.

However, the agreement does not cover bodies slated for cremation or burial in the state or bodies that may never be identified, such as those of children born in the Peoples Temple com-

mune in Guyana, Swayze said.

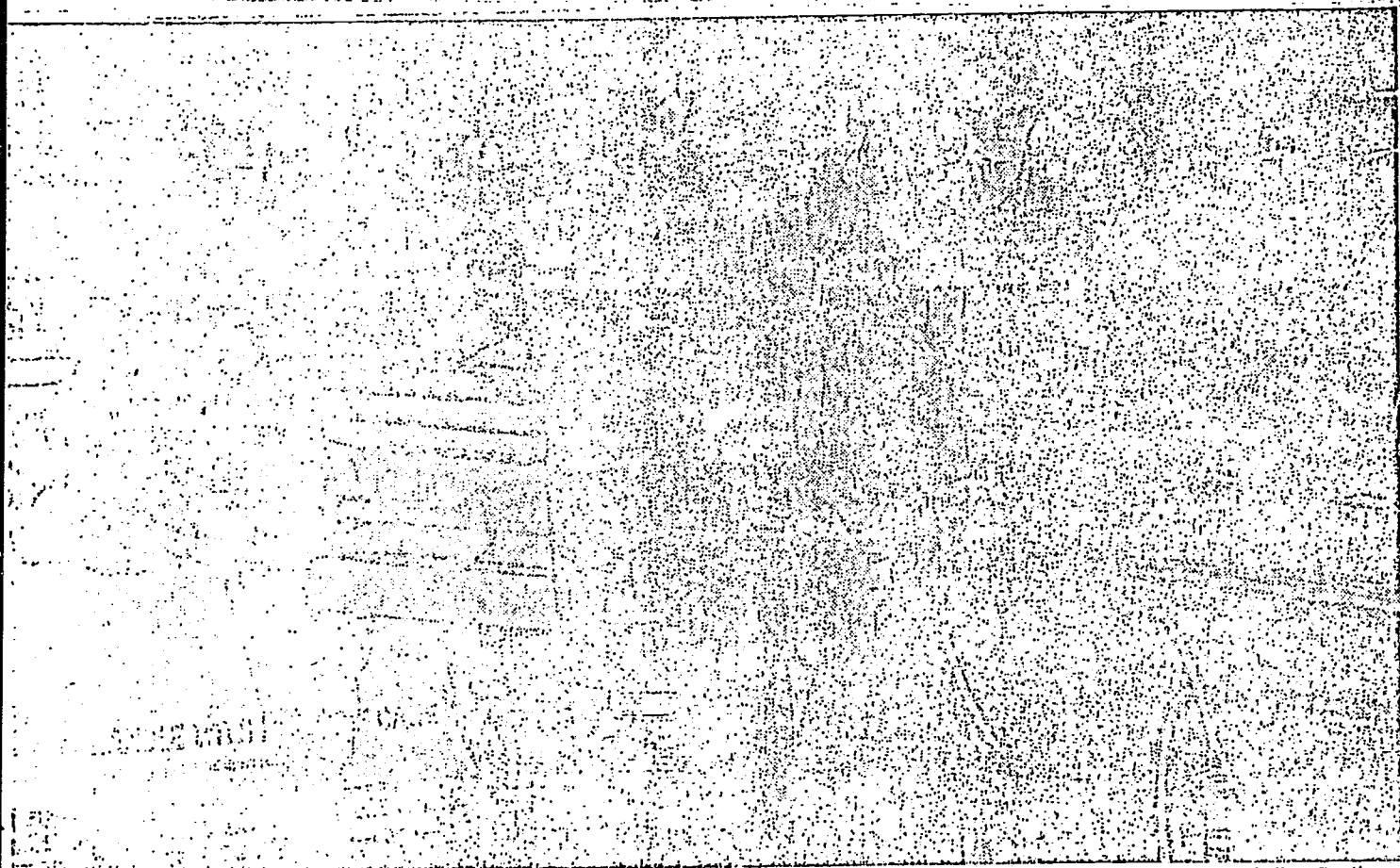
The disposition of those bodies will be the subject of further discussions between state and federal authorities, he said.

One solution would be for Delaware's medical examiner to investigate each of the deaths, a process that "under the circumstance would probably require autopsies," according to Patricia Schramm, secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services.

"That presents us with a major problem," she said. "There are right now approximately 400 unidentified or unclaimed bodies and our medical examiner conducts about 500 autopsies a year. It would probably take him a year to do it."

Mrs. Schramm said state officials have told the state department "to either give us additional assistance or keep the bodies where they are."

Sunday News Journal, Wilmington, Del., December 10, 1978



Staff photo by Henry Ray Alarino

The body of a victim of the mass suicide-murders in Guyana is loaded on a Dover funeral home hearse by Air Force personnel yesterday. The body, one of 592 identified so far, was one of the first to be released from the Dover Air Force Base.

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Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr.
at his home in Dover

One of their fears is that most of the People's Temple cult members' partly decomposed bodies—brought here for processing at a large mortuary at Dover Air Force Base—may never be claimed.

"I think this would inundate Dover with people who are not quite, if you'll pardon the expression, all there," Dover Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr. said last week.

Gov. Pierre S. du Pont 4th saw fit
(See DOVER on 16-A)

Funeral homes take 8 bodies

DOVER--Eight bodies of victims of the mass suicide-murder at the Peoples Temple commune in Guyana were released to Dover funeral homes Saturday.

Three more were expected to be released today.

Reporters and photographers watched while the first three bodies were loaded into hearses shortly after noon Saturday at Dover Air Force Base.

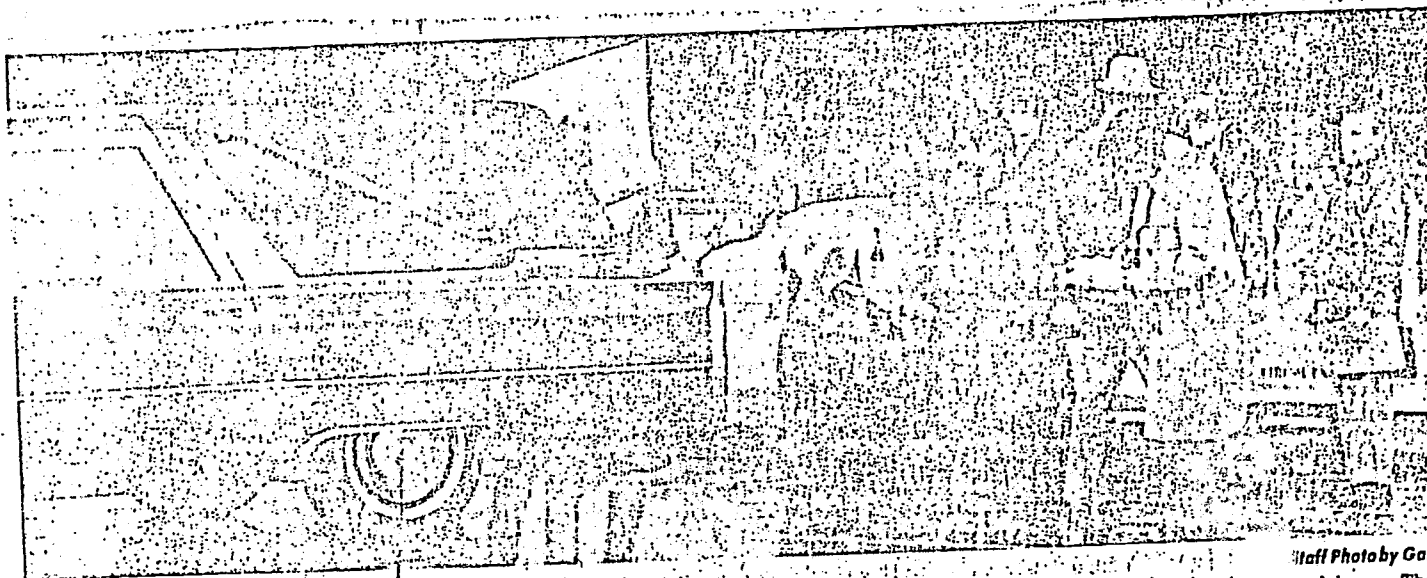
No family members were present for the simple transfer.

Four of the bodies went to Minus Funeral Home in Dover.

Today, they were to be sent to San Francisco, their final destination.

Edward Minus, owner of the funeral home, said he had not called the

See VICTIMS—page 2



Staff Photo by Gar

A casket containing the remains of a victim of the Jonestown mass suicide-murder is loaded into a hearse bound for a local funeral home. The transfers of bodies were made Saturday in a driving rain.

Victims' bodies moved

•Continued from page 1•

families to let them know the bodies were coming.

As a matter of "professional courtesy," Minus said he would leave that task to the funeral homes picking up the bodies in San Francisco.

Minus would not release the names of the persons whose bodies he is handling.

"That would really create problems," Minus said. "I'd have all kinds of people wanting to know where their bodies are."

The other four bodies released Saturday went to Reese, Ambruso, Faries, and Pippin funeral homes, according to Charles C. Carson, mortuary officer at the Base.

Most of the 592 bodies identified by Friday afternoon will be shipped to the West Coast, where the Peoples Temple sect was based before the Rev. Jimmy Jones established the South American jungle settlement.

The first of the 911 bodies of American members of the cult who died at Georgetown and Jonestown, Guyana,

arrived at the Base Thanksgiving day aboard Air Force cargo planes.

Since then, volunteers from the Air Base and FBI workers have cleaned, processed and embalmed the decomposed bodies and are attempting to identify them.

The Air Base volunteers will be formally thanked for their work Tuesday night by the Dover Rotary Club.

A roast beef dinner and a keg of beer will be set up at the Air Base Officers' Club for 30 of the volunteers who worked in the morgue.

"This is our way of saying thank you to these men for doing a helluva job," Gary Patterson, a Rotarian and aide to U.S. Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., said. "They did it on behalf of humanity and they didn't get paid overtime."

The dinner is limited to 60, including civilians, NCO's, officers and enlisted men who worked as volunteers.

Dover Air Force Base will have to compile a list of 60 volunteers representative of the total who worked in the morgue, Patterson said.



Staff Photo by Gary

murder is loaded into a hearse bound for a local funeral home. The

To Protect Wife's Hometown

Jones, Family May Be Cremated in Del.

By STEVE MARSHALL

DOVER—The bodies of People's Temple leader Jim Jones, his wife and two of their adopted children probably will be cremated here to spare Mrs. Jones' small hometown in Indiana from curiosity seekers.

Doan & Mills Funeral Home in Richmond, Ind., the undertakers handling arrangements for the parents of Marceline Baldwin Jones, told the Evening Journal that the family has asked that their daughter's ashes, and those of Jones and the children, be scattered in the Atlantic Ocean.

The State Department has some

control over the disposition of the 912 bodies recovered after the Nov. 18 mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana, but representatives weren't available for comment early this morning.

Until this weekend, the Baldwins had intended to have the bodies returned to Richmond for graveside services.

"It is only natural that Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin wanted their daughter's body returned home for burial, and for this reason the original plans were made," said Ernest W. Mills, of Doan & Mills. The change, he said, was "very much influenced by what was best for the community of Richmond

and all concerned," Mills said. "I feel they have made a wise decision."

The last planeload of Jonestown victims arrived at the Dover Air Base yesterday filling to capacity the cinder block mortuary, which has never handled so many disaster victims at one time.

As of last night, 532 victims of the mass suicide decreed by Jones had been fingerprinted, said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Paul Lardizzone, an air base spokesman.

Twenty-nine have now been identified, and 17 have been embalmed. More forensic experts are expected to join the military and FBI specialists performing the

grisly tasks, but the processing of remains is expected to take up to a month, Pentagon spokesman Maj. Brigham Shuler said.

Meanwhile, FBI agents in San Francisco are seeking handwriting samples of Rev. Jim Jones, so a comparison can be made with that of a letter an airman found Friday on Jones' body.

In Washington, FBI spokesman Tom Coll said the bureau wouldn't comment on the letter's contents until the handwriting is verified.

Meanwhile, Delaware's chief disease control expert has assured Kent County residents that the handling of the decaying bodies posed no health threat.

Dr. Ernest Tierkel, who in-
ed the mortuary operation y
day "to satisfy the public
concerns of the people
Dover area," said he "sa
health problems" and came
satisfied that all nec
precautions are being taken
operation.

Several calls to public
officials expressed concern
possible spread of disease,
risks to those engaged in pr
ing the bodies and even co
nation of the environment. T
said he thought most of the

See CREMATION — Page 10

Cremation —

Continued from Page One

were made "because of ignorance."

According to one veteran Dover funeral director, it would be an "almost impossible job" to successfully embalm bodies that had been decomposing in the jungle heat, many for as long as a week.

Another funeral director said that the bodies would probably be wrapped in chemically treated compresses for shipping.

Morticians at the base mortuary are using "10 times the chemical strength" used in ordinary funeral preparations, according to Tierkel.

It is a gruesome task for those who must process the bodies, Tierkel said. The odor of decaying flesh is tremendous, but workers mask the smell with wintergreen-treated face coverings. The surgical type garb they wear is burned when they leave the building, Tierkel said.

Some people were even concerned that the bodies might contaminate the ground where they are eventually interred, he said, adding "there is absolutely no possibility of this."

Unrefrigerated warehouse areas being used to accommodate the overflow from the mortuary were inspected by environmental officials and will be sanitized and inspected again before they are used for other purposes, according to base officials.

A State Department spokesman said in Dover yesterday that the department is "currently looking into burial facilities" and "other possibilities" for the unclaimed bodies.

"We haven't ruled out cremation," said the spokesman, Richard J. White, in response to a question about "possible mass cremation."

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Executive Editor

EDWIN GUTHMAN
Editor

Tuesday, November 21, 1978

Page 8-A

Seeds of Jones tragedy: Hypocritical idealism

Exactly what triggered the orgy of violence and death amid the Jonestown religious sect in Guyana is not yet clear. It is a tragedy that defies belief, but what can be pieced from reports of eyewitnesses in Guyana and from San Francisco where the sect grew to power, makes it clear that the seeds of what happened germinated in the personality and ambitions of the sect's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

The chain of evidence does not add up to a new story in history. Mr. Jones, described as a leader of "hypnotic charisma," built a movement which appeared to be idealistic and well-intentioned, but was based on a layer of lies. It was dishonest from the beginning, as his wife of 29 years revealed in an interview with The New York Times last year. Mr. Jones, she said, came to believe when he was 21 years old that in order to bring people out of their superstition, "you have to give them a substitute." That substitute was religion, which Mr. Jones preached, but did not believe, she said.

When news reports appeared in San Francisco last year asserting Mr. Jones performed phony miracles and

used physical and mental anguish to keep his members in line, Mr. Jones went to Guyana, along with hundreds of followers, to establish a commune in the jungle.

When Rep. Leo Ryan, with an entourage of journalists, came to the commune to determine for himself the truth of reports that some persons were being held against their will, Mr. Jones tried to work a bluff that all was well, according to eyewitnesses. But a young man slipped a newsman a message written on a child's slate saying "Please help me get out of Jonestown," and ultimately 20 of Mr. Jones's followers prepared to leave with Mr. Ryan's party.

Whether that act symbolized for Mr. Jones the Gotterdammerung of his movement may never be known, but it was followed by madness — the murder of Mr. Ryan, a man of courage and commitment, and four others in his party and the mass suicide of residents of the commune.

If there is a lesson to be drawn from the horror of Jonestown it is that there is no salvation in blind submission to physical, spiritual and moral force whether cloaked with zealous idealism or easy, mystical answers.

Letters to

Ti

To the Editor:

Since I went to what Northern Rhodesia in and resided in Zambia to 1967, I was deeply in J. A. Livingston's Nov articles on South Africa.

His argument that S ca's need for skilled w lead to black advance

Guyana will issue death certificates

DOVER—The government of Guyana has agreed to issue death certificates for the positively identified bodies from the Jonestown, Guyana settlement, a U.S. Department of State spokeswoman said today.

The agreement may solve a dispute between Delaware officials and the state department over the disposal of the 911 bodies stacked in coffins at the Dover Air Force Base morgue.

"Since they all died in Guyana, the Guyanese government has said it would issue the death certificates," the spokeswoman said.

Delaware officials could not be reached to confirm whether the Guyanese decision would expedite disposal of the bodies.

As of 4 p.m. Monday, 518 of the bodies flown to the Dover Air Force Base more than a week ago have been positively identified.

Since the corpses arrived, teams of pathologists, FBI specialists and morticians have been working feverishly to identify and embalm the rapidly decaying corpses.

Many of the next of kin of the positively identified dead have gone through all the steps necessary in claiming bodies, a state department spokesman said. Now they are waiting for the state department and Delaware officials to decide on the removal of bodies, he said.

Meetings between the state department and Delaware officials were expected to continue today to discuss the release and transportation of the bodies.

There are reports that the two groups are near a decision on releasing the bodies, and an unconfirmed report said claimed and identified corpses could be released as early as today.

Neither state department nor Delaware officials could be reached to confirm the reports.

'Acceptable' deviance

Hey, folks, you missed the boat.

We write about a male striptease at a Dover air and we're inundated with letters condemning our character, or lack thereof. Our newswriters are described as demons, our minds as sewers, and our newspaper is given the aparound job on last night's garbage.

Then we write about putrid green and black composing bodies, infested with maggots and smelling like rotten meat.

Our pages detail the horrors of a warped mind, a social contract that ended with the death of more than 900 persons in the steamy jungle of a South American country.

Not once do we write about it. Not twice. But now our pages have been filled with words like "putrid" and "rotten," and phrases like "badly decomposed," and "body bags."

Now we will begin writing about the psychological effects handling the bodies might have on Base personnel who volunteered for this mission.

Certainly it is one of the most grisly stories the *Tele News* has ever published, the kind of give a

child nightmares, and a disturbing vision of how ugly this world of ours can get sometimes.

But we have not been roundly condemned for printing stories about the Guyana atrocities, or for being brutally graphic in our descriptions of the rotting flesh.

My guess is that the mass suicide/murder of more than 900 persons represents a much more severe example of social deviance than the actions of a few drunk beauty contestants.

Just goes to show you, I guess, that certain forms of deviance are more acceptable than others.

We allow our children to compose a distorted picture of reality by watching violent television shows, yet we are sometimes prudish and parochial when it comes expressing our sexuality.

The Guyana massacre is evidence that something inside us makes us hunger for detailed accounts of blood and gore.

That seems a bit strange to me.

—TOM SCHMIDT
Managing Editor

521 Cult Bodies Identified, Shipment Prepared at Dover

DOVER — Routine has returned to Dover Air Force Base, where 521 of 911 Jonestown murder-suicide victims have been identified.

"For the most part, we're almost back to business as usual," said Lt. Joseph Saxon, a base spokesman.

Identification specialists — 18 from the FBI and 35 from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology — have cut back their round-the-clock operations, and now work from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Saxon said.

Morticians finished embalming the 911 bodies of People's Temple cult members Sunday, so now the only obstacle before bodies can be shipped home is paperwork.

State officials are waiting for the U.S. State Department to provide needed documentation that will allow the shipments.

In order to permit Dover area morticians to take the bodies to Philadelphia Airport, state offi-

cials need proof that the bodies were legally taken from Guyana.

Battle R. Robinson, a member of Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV's legal staff, said last night the State Department had received some documentation from Guyana. Delaware lawyers would probably review it today, she said.

The first level of state approval involves only those bodies for which relatives have arranged shipment out of state. Decisions on whether others can be buried or cremated in Delaware may come later, officials said. The du Pont administration opposes burial of unidentified and unclaimed bodies in Delaware, and the State Department has agreed there will be no "mass burial" here.

A U.S. Justice Department spokesman said yesterday afternoon that planned autopsies on the bodies of People's Temple leader Jim Jones and six followers had not been performed. He said he

did not think full approval had yet been given by any next of kin. Officials had said Delaware's medical examiner might be asked to order the autopsies if relatives refused to approve them.

Six Jonestown Survivors Are Flown to New York

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 2 (AP)—Six survivors of the Peoples Temple jungle commune in Guyana flew to New York today, and 31 others are expected to leave the country Sunday.

Some of the remaining survivors of the cult, more than 900 of whose members died in a mass suicide-murder two weeks ago, will be held as witnesses in the investigation, Guyana police said.

Georgetown's assistant police commissioner, Cecil A. Roberts, said today that 37 survivors had been given permission to leave Guyana over the weekend.

Roberts said some sect members would have to remain because "we need people as witnesses."

"Some of them will be asked to assist us in the investigation. I don't have a figure. We are reviewing some that we will ask to stay on as witnesses," he said.

The six leaving today were identified as Julius and Sandra Evans, both 30, and their children Sonya, 11, Sharla, 7, and Shirella, 6, all of San Francisco, and Edith Parks, 64, of Ukiah, Calif.

Parks is a survivor of the airstrip attack that preceded the mass deaths in Jonestown. The Evans family had walked out of Jonestown that morning, saying they were going on a picnic. They have said they did not witness the shooting at the airstrip or the poisoning.

Crucial to the Guyana investigation are reports from Dover Air Force Base, Del., where experts are fingerprinting more than 900 bodies flown there after the Peoples Temple cultists drank a grape-flavored punch spiked with poison and drugs.

"We are still waiting for help from Delaware to determine whether persons wanted for questioning are

among the dead," Roberts said. "We have names we want. We haven't got them in custody."

The Rev. Jim Jones persuaded his followers to participate in the death ceremony after Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.), three newsmen and a disaffected cultist were shot to death Nov. 18 while trying to leave from an airstrip near the commune.

Two persons have been charged with murder in Jonestown-related episodes. Larry Layton of San Francisco has been accused in the airstrip attack, and Charles F. Beikman of Indianapolis is charged with killing a sect member and her three children in Georgetown on the day of the mass poisonings.

Richard A. Dwyer, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy, led Ryan's party to the commune for an investigation of reports that members were being forcibly held and tortured. Dwyer survived the attack, though a bullet still is lodged against his pelvis.

Dwyer, 45, of Michigan City, Ind., recalled that the Ryan party was escorting several residents who wanted to leave the settlement when "all of a sudden somebody started shooting at us."

"I hit the deck, and that must have been when they shot me," he said. "I don't remember feeling it hit. I lay on my back and played dead."

"I remember worrying that because I was wearing dark blue slacks the blood wasn't going to show up well enough. I was debating whether to smear some around on my shirt to make it look better," he said.

Dwyer said that the congressman "was clearly dead. Part of his head was blown away. The same was true for (NBC correspondent Don) Harris."

The survivors of the attack spent that night with the wounded, and were evacuated to Georgetown the next morning by Guyanese troops.

OK to ship bodies from Dover due

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — The embalmed bodies of Guyana murder-suicide victims remained at Dover Air Force Base last night, but state approval for the first of them to be shipped to relatives could come today, officials said.

Of the 911 corpses brought to the base following the Nov. 18 mass-death, 518 had been identified by 4 p.m. yesterday, a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, state officials were waiting for the U.S. State Department to furnish the necessary documents to allow identified and claimed bodies to be shipped to next of kin.

In order to permit Dover area morticians to take the bodies to Philadelphia Airport, state officials need proof that the bodies were legally taken from Guyana.

Battle R. Robinson, a member of Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV's legal staff, said last night the State Department had received some documentation from Guyana. Delaware lawyers would probably review it today, she said.

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Cult lawyer may speak at DelState

By KATHY CANAVAN

Mark Lane lost no time cashing in on the mass murder-suicide in Guyana 13 days ago. He's joined the lecture circuit at \$2,700 an appearance.

Delaware State College is thinking about inviting Lane to speak at its campus in Dover, the city up in arms over the disposal of the 911 Jonestown bodies stacked up in the air force base morgue there.

Lane, one of the Peoples Temple lawyers, says he narrowly escaped death in Jonestown 13 days ago by convincing two armed guards he and attorney Charles Garry would tell the cult's story to the world.

New Line Productions, Lane's new Manhattan agents, started calling colleges last week to offer the lawyer's version of the settlement's last hours. They're billing it as "The Horror of Jonestown."

Jeff Wise, the agent who handles Delaware called Delaware State and the University of Delaware, which isn't interested.

"We're not going to do it," says Divver Martin who arranges the university's lectures. "Mark Lane is not that big a deal, quite frankly. He's been around a long time. He plays the sensational angle. He was doing the conspiracy theory on JFK's death. He's been riding that horse for six years and now he'll ride this Guyana thing."

Martin says he will present the agents' offer to the student committee that selects lectures but he personally has "problems with speakers who go crazy with their fees."

"We can't afford the freight — \$2,750 to \$3,000," he says. "We have never paid that much for a lecture and hopefully we never will."

Martin said the university paid

Dick Cavett \$5,000 to appear last year but the average fee paid for lectures is \$300 to \$350.

Charmaine Miller, who arranges lectures for Delaware State College said, "I like the idea of having him here. I would like to do it," but the first consideration is money because he is very expensive."

She said the college could present Lane next January but she didn't know how the idea would go over in Dover where residents are up in arms over the disposition of the cult corpses.

The agents are hyping the lecture as Lane's story of how he rescued Congressman Leo Ryan from a knife-wielding cult member just before Ryan left Jonestown for the airstrip where he was gunned down.

It will also include a discussion of the Peoples Temple, Moonies and other cults, they said.

Mass burial possible for unclaimed bodies

By Vernon Loeb
Special to The Inquirer

DOVER, Del. — While the task of identifying bodies from the People's Temple in Guyana crawls along here, U. S. State Department officials have begun planning for the possibility that hundreds of the bodies will remain unclaimed.

Air Force officials said yesterday that 44 of the 912 bodies — just four more than Monday — had been positively identified. Fingerprints have been taken from 886 of the bodies and a team of morticians has embalmed 178.

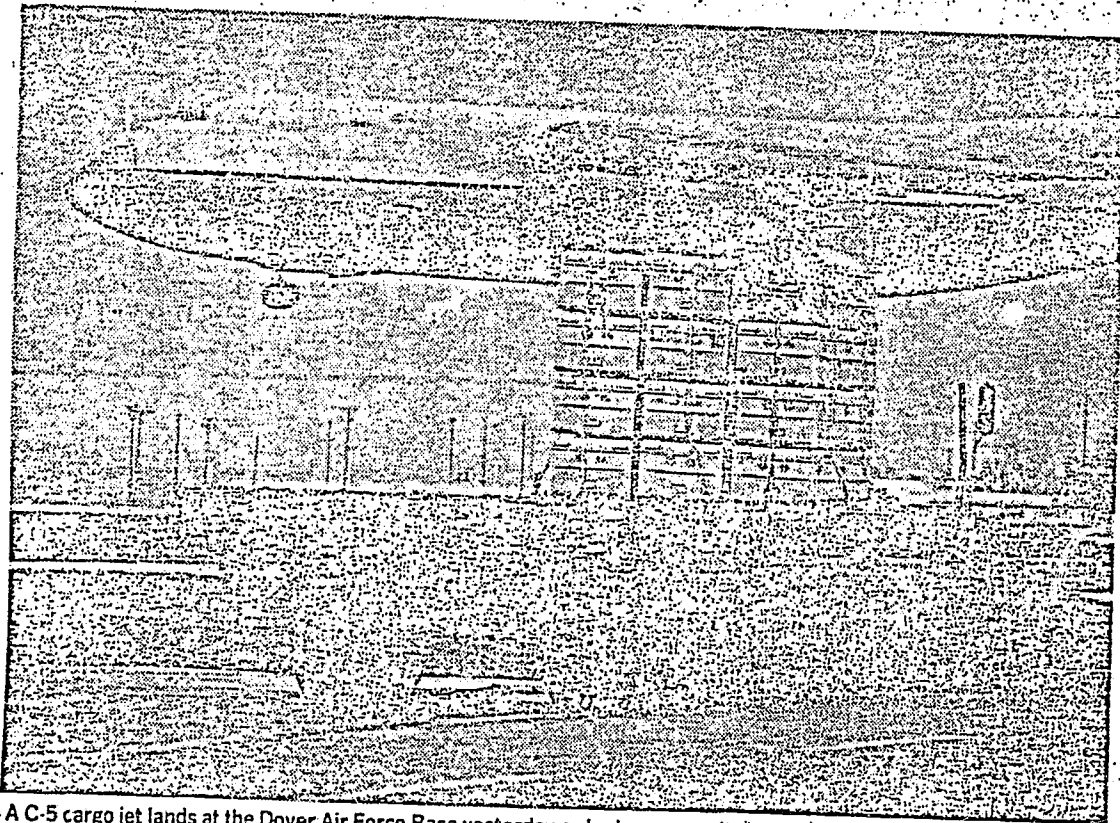
The bodies were brought to a large mortuary at Dover Air Force Base that was built in 1969 to process bodies flown back from Vietnam.

Katharine Lee Marshall, a State Department spokeswoman, said yesterday that the unclaimed or unidentified bodies would probably be interred in the Dover area. She said that no decision had been made on whether the bodies would be buried or cremated, although State Department officials have considered a mass cremation of unclaimed bodies. Ms. Marshall said that the department still hopes that a plea for pictures, medical records and other information from relatives of victims of the Nov. 18 murder-suicide ritual will help to identify the bodies and lead families to claim them. She added, however, that department officials feared that many of the bodies would remain unclaimed.

Meanwhile, Dover Mayor Charles A. Legates said yesterday that he op-

posed any State Department plan to bury unclaimed and unidentified bodies in Dover, "since the grave would be a shrine or a mecca for remaining cult members or other cult worshippers."

A similar sentiment has been expressed by residents of Richmond, Ind., where the bodies of the Rev. Jim Jones, the cult leader, his wife, and their two adopted children were originally to be sent for burial.



A C-5 cargo jet lands at the Dover Air Force Base yesterday as body cases wait outside the mortuary for processing. (Staff photo by Kevin Fleming)

U.S. shields 29 who fled cult camp

Georgetown, Guyana (AP)—Twenty-nine Jonestown cultists, terrified by the jungle nightmare they fled and by reprisals they think await them, went into hiding yesterday behind a United States shield.

The Guyanese government prohibited all Jonestown survivors from leaving the country until it completes its investigation of the mass murder-suicide.

Three U.S. military helicopters shuttled back and forth between the Georgetown airport and the Jonestown suicide camp, ferrying out the bodies of more than 100 members of the sect. They died, almost all by taking poison, in suicidal allegiance to the cult's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

A central question remains unanswered, however—how many sect members fled into the jungle rather than kill themselves, and where are they?

The United States Embassy said 31 residents of the Jonestown commune have emerged from the rain forest in northwest Guyana since last Saturday's mass suicide. Two of them are being held by the Guyanese as suspects in the airfield ambush that same day of a group led by Representative Leo J. Ryan (D., Calif.), whose investigative visit to the camp triggered the weekend of violence.

The Guyanese earlier had arrested a third suspect in the ambush, which killed Mr. Ryan, three American newsmen and a disaffected cult member. Mr. Ryan's group was trying to escort would-be defectors from the camp.

The other 29 Jonestown residents who have come out of the jungle are "scared out of their wits," said Doug Ellice, a U.S.

consular official.

"They just fled from something so horrible, it's beyond belief—I mean hundreds of people just dropping dead."

James Ward, an embassy spokesman, said those who disobeyed Mr. Jones and fled the suicide scene at Jonestown fear there now may be reprisals against them by fanatical sect members. But cultists at the sect's San Francisco temple denied any retaliation was planned against defectors.

Mr. Ellice said the 29, being kept under U.S. protection at an undisclosed location here, "are free to move around but don't want to move around." He said they requested the protection.

He also said they would like to leave this South American nation but that the government has ordered all Peoples Temple members to remain in Guyana until the inquiry is complete. This apparently included 45 who were in this capital city, 150 miles southeast of the camp, at the time of the ambush and suicide.

An embassy official who asked not to be identified said neighboring Venezuela had been requested to join in the search for other survivors in the thick and inhospitable jungle. The Venezuelan border is about 20 miles from Jonestown, and Guyanese police think some Jonestown survivors may have fled there.

Estimates of the number who escaped the communal death scene range from 375 to 800. The embassy source said approximately 800 passports had been found at Jonestown and that these were being checked against the names of the known dead and known survivors, and against information on sect members' travels pro-

vided by the Guyanese immigration office.

Guyana releases list of settlement survivors

Georgetown, Guyana (AP)—Here is a list provided by the Guyanese government of the survivors from the Peoples Temple settlement at Jonestown. The spellings are those provided by the government:

Monica Bagby, 20, Los Angeles.
Enid Bogue, 39, Suisun City, Calif.
Jim Bogue, 46, Suisun City, Calif.
Junia Bogue, 21, Suisun City, Calif.
Teena Bogue, 23, Suisun City, Calif.
Tommy Bogue, 17, Suisun City, Calif.
Michael Carter, 20, Boise, Idaho.
Tim Carter, 23, Boise, Idaho.
Richard Clark, 42, New York city.
Stanley Clayton, 25, Oakland, Calif.
Harold Cordell, 42, Suisun City, Calif.
Grover Davis, 79, California.
Julius Evans, 30, San Francisco.
Sandra Evans, 30, San Francisco.
Sharla Evans, 17, San Francisco.
Shirella Evans, 6, San Francisco.
Sonya Evans, 11, San Francisco.
Johnny Franklin, 33, San Francisco.
Larry Leyton, 32, San Francisco.
Dianne Louiarozenko, 26, New York city.
Christopher O'Neal, 27, Ukiah, Calif.
Brenda Park, 18, Ukiah, Calif.
Dale Park, 27, Ukiah, Calif.
Edith Park, 64, Ukiah, Calif.
Gerald Park, 45, Ukiah, Calif.
Tracy Park, 12, Ukiah, Calif.
Robert Paul, 33, New Iberia, La.
Michael Prokes, 32, Modesto, Calif.
Odell Rhodes, 33, California.
Hyacinth Thrush, 76, San Francisco.
Jakari Wilson, 3, Sacramento, Calif.
Leslie Wilson, 30, Sacramento, Calif.

State to release identified bodies

By MARK MATTHEWS
Dover Bureau

DOVER — Identified bodies of Guyana murder-suicide victims slated for shipment to relatives out of state may now be removed from Dover Air Force Base, the administration of Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV said yesterday.

A U.S. State Department lawyer at the base said last night there is a "reasonably good chance" the first of the bodies could be moved today "if everything falls into place as I hope it will."

Some technical hurdles remain, but David S. Swayze, counsel to the governor, said last night, "I hope by tomorrow to have the transit problem resolved."

The state's permission covers only those bodies which next of kin have arranged to be shipped out of state. No precise number was available last night.

No decision has been made on bodies for which relatives are seeking burial within the state, or on unidentified or unclaimed bodies. Those bodies will remain at the base pending further action, officials said.

After the mass death of Peoples Temple cultists Nov. 18, 911 bodies were sent to the Dover Air Force

Base mortuary to be prepared for burial.

Embalming has been finished, and 551 bodies had been identified by 4 p.m. yesterday.

Removal from the base was barred while state and U.S. officials sought to satisfy state laws governing transportation of bodies. State law requires proof that the corpses had been lawfully removed from Guyana.

Evidence that satisfied du Pont administration lawyers came in the form of a telegram from the U. S. Embassy in Guyana to the State Department.

Officials said that before the first of the bodies can be removed, the state Attorney General's office must formally rule that steps taken satisfy state law.

Also, documents must be prepared to accompany each body, and funeral homes assigned by families to remove the bodies must make plans for shipment and present the necessary telegrams from families authorizing them to claim the bodies.

One Dover mortician said yesterday that relatives may have arranged for up to 100 bodies to be

See BODIES—Page 2, Col. 3

Bodies

Continued from Page One

moved. A State Department lawyer at the base, Bruce E. Dozier, said that since families have been making arrangements directly with Dover-area morticians, he could not give a figure.

There are no death certificates for the bodies, although Dozier said officials hoped the Guyana government will provide them. Delaware law requires a death certificate for burial, but Dozier said, "State regulations vary from state to state. Some states don't require death certificates."

Up until Monday, bodies had been identified almost exclusively by matching their fingerprints with prints of Jonestown residents furnished by Guyana, White said.

Guyana immigration authorities required no fingerprints of children. As a result, identification of children, through medical and dental records, is expected to be more difficult, he said. Bodies shipped here from Guyana included more than 300 children, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been matching the prints.

Success in identifying children "will depend to some degree on the response of next of kin," White said.

The state opposes burial of any unclaimed and unidentified bodies in Delaware. The State Department has agreed there will be no "mass burial" here.

Autopsies planned for the bodies of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, two aides and four randomly selected bodies had not been performed as of yesterday.

Death clothed in garb of faith

Carl T. Rowan

Washington — When you get over your shock and revulsion over more than 400 murders and suicides in the Rev. Jim Jones' People's Temple community in Guyana, you have some serious thinking to do.

How and when are we going to face up to the fact that "religion" is America's greatest sanctuary for people who engage in systematic theft, tax evasion, rape, torture and even murder?

The Federal Government can make a banker specify in detail what interest he is charging on a loan; it can jail a corporation executive for using "insider's knowledge" to make a profit on a stock; it can force an automobile company to spend millions of dollars to recall cars that just "might" have a defective part. But government has been, with rare recent exceptions, powerless to deal with so-called "religions," even though there was abundant evidence of kidnappings, brainwashings, physical abuse — and most of all of con games to strip new "converts" of their money.

This gruesome tragedy in Guyana is an appalling example of governmental failure to act, primarily because government officials are timid about breaching sanctuaries of "religion." The State Department not only failed to act early against Jim Jones' temple, but it fought to prevent FBI involvement.

It is easy enough for the State Department, the FBI, the Army and a host of other agencies to spring to action after a congressman and a news team are murdered and more than 400 members of the People's Temple are found dead.

But why was government handcuffed months ago when it knew that Jones and his cronies were forcing converts to sign over all their belongings, present and future, to "the temple"?

Can it possibly surprise U.S. officials that one cult member was seized, after the killings, carrying \$50,000 in cash and a \$1 million bank draft on a bank in Panama? Or that more than \$1 million worth of gold, jewelry and cash was found in Jones' commune in Guyana?

Our laws are written, or interpreted, in such a way that if a person en-

ters a cult "willingly" and then is kept in, allegedly against his or her will, the FBI cannot act on grounds that this is kidnapping.

Thus our government has dealt gingerly with the Unification Church, headed by a Korean, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. This cult has been accused again and again of brainwashing new members, holding them by force, wearing them down physically and mentally, and then "programming" them to a total commitment to the church.

Last August the Federal Government did move against one "unusual" religious group, the Church of Scientology. A federal grand jury returned a 28-count indictment accusing 11 high officials and agents of the church of stealing Justice Department documents, bugging an office of the Internal Revenue Service, encouraging perjury and hiding witnesses.

There are dozens of "religious" groups in America that are just as venal and vicious as the People's Temple, but how bold or cautious must government be in investigating and/or prosecuting them? Other groups merely arouse suspicion. CBS's "Sixty Minutes" last Sunday featured two evangelists who have won many thousands of followers by using radio and television. One of these ministers boasted that the cash donated in one day's mail might total \$200,000.

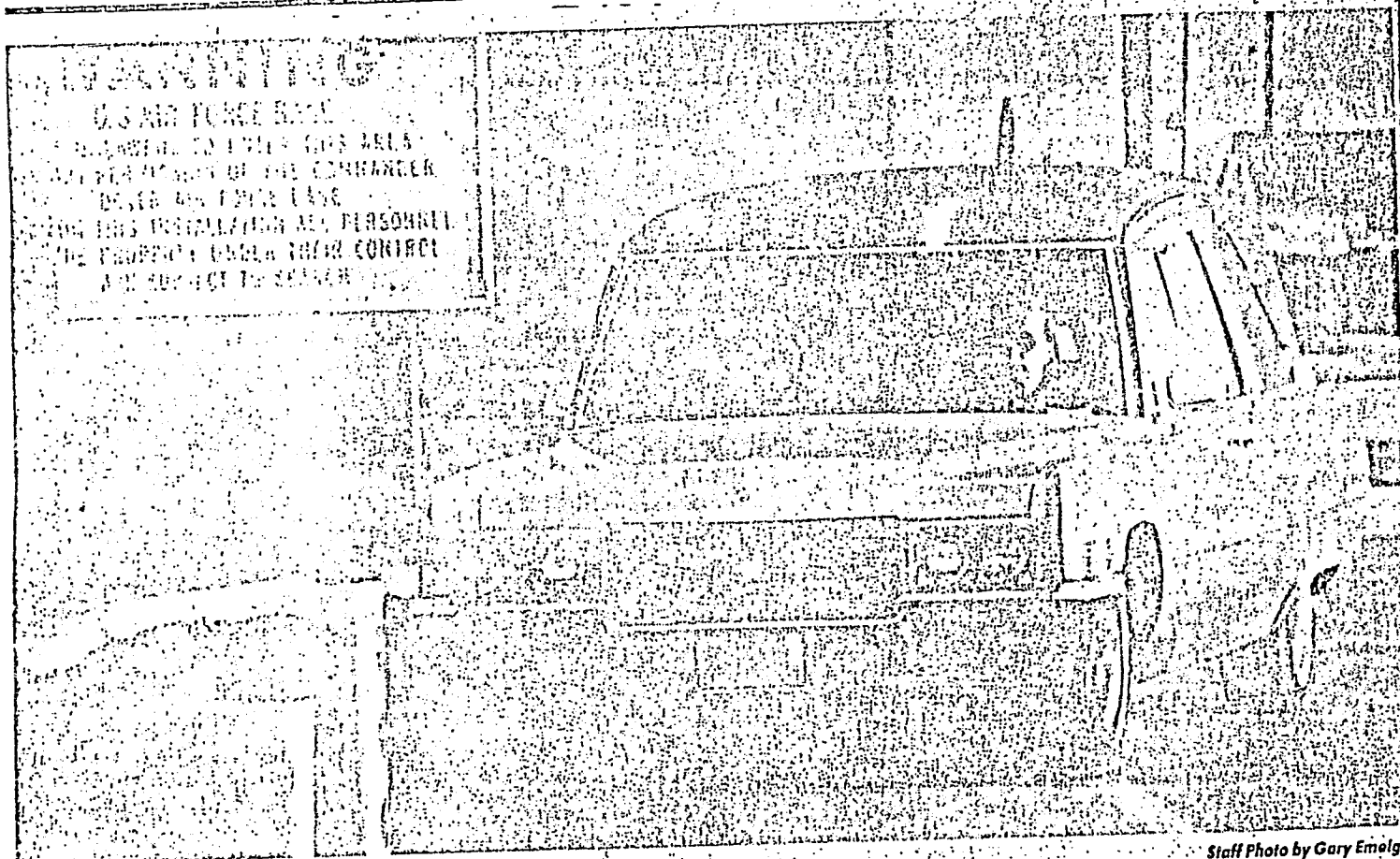
Does the IRS dare intervene to see how that cash is counted, and whether it all goes into tax-deductible religious pursuits?

How does government decide that the Church of Scientology deserves close official scrutiny, but that the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., does not?

How does government deal with the reality that many of these evangelists are dispensing more politics than religion? How, especially, when the shrewdest merchandizers of religion are also clever at embracing politicians — as witness the fact that Jim Jones brandished "recommendations" from Rosalynn Carter, Vice President Mondale and others.

The constitutional dilemma is very troublesome. But I say that, however much we cherish our separation of church and state, we have got to find a safe way for the state to rein in those who steal and kill in the name of God.

(Carl Rowan is a syndicated writer.)



The body of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones leaves Dover Air Force Base this morning in a hearse driven by Dover funeral director William C.

Torbert, with Torbert's wife, Doris, at his side. They reportedly transported the corpse to New Jersey to be cremated.

Staff Photo by Gary Emelgh

Jones' body leaves Delaware

By FRANK KRZYWICKI
Staff Writer

DOVER—The body of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones left Dover Air Force Base this morning in a hearse driven by Dover funeral director William C. Torbert.

Torbert confirmed reports his business handled the corpse of the cult leader who perished with more than 900 temple members in a bizarre death ritual Nov. 18 in Guyana.

Unconfirmed reports were that Jones' body was on its way to New Jersey for cremation.

Michael J. White, a U.S. Department of State lawyer, refused to disclose

whether an autopsy was performed on Jones.

The Guyanese government requested the autopsy to aid in its investigation of the slaying of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif.

Meanwhile, the number of bodies that have left Dover Air Base morgue by Monday at 4:30 p.m. climbed to 197.

Bodies are leaving the morgue at the rate of about 30 a day since the first corpses left last Saturday, an Air Base spokesman said.

No unclaimed and unidentified bodies have left the Base; and legal problems surrounding their removal from

Delaware are still being hammered out, David S. Swayze, legal counsel for Gov. Pierre S. du Pont said.

Identification of the remaining bodies at the morgue has slowed to a crawl, as 631 had been positively identified by Monday afternoon, only four more than Friday's count.

Two weeks ago, state department officials in Washington disclosed the adopted son of Jones had given permission for an autopsy on Jones' body.

But this morning, state department officials were close-mouthed about confirming an autopsy.

"I don't feel at liberty to say," White said when asked if an autopsy was per-

formed on Jones. "I didn't even know he was leaving today."

"If there was an autopsy, I think that will be made known, but at this time, I don't know who could answer that," he said.

Swayze said state department officials earlier told Delaware officials of their intentions to have a pathologist perform an autopsy on Jones, and had gotten FBI clearance and permission from Jones' next of kin.

"It would be inconsistent if there was no autopsy, but at this point, we have not heard and are no longer involved with that part of it," Swayze said.

RALPH S. MOYED

Mortician Won't Gloat Over Guyana Windfall

"It's a fine day," Ford said when I asked him about the job. Ford still was refusing to talk to reporters about the work at the air base, but he finally offered a possible explanation for his silence.

"I wouldn't dare gloat over it," he said.

The one thing competitors couldn't stand is Earl Ford gloating.

Earl Ford is not a favorite among his peers.

The air base embalming contract always used to go to downstate morticians.

In former years, it was a good contract. Business was especially brisk during the Vietnam War when Dover handled a large share of the bodies of deceased U.S. servicemen. With the onset of peace, business dropped off.

There was a big spurt in 1977 when 323 of the victims of the crash of two jets in the Canary Islands were flown to Dover for processing.

Most Delaware morticians, however, took little notice when Ford submitted the low bid and won the embalming contract for the current year.

Ford had established his business in 1962 and soon found himself in hot water with his fellow morticians.

What got them upset the most, and led to a recommendation that Ford's license be suspended, was a suit Ford filed against one of his clients — an uncle.

Later, a storm-window firm sued Ford, claiming the funeral director stiffed the company for \$520 worth of windows and storm doors.

And while Ford was busy processing the bodies at the Dover Air Force Base this

month, the Wilmington licenses and inspections department charged the 50-year-old undertaker with not removing lead paint from a rental property he owns.

Ford refused yesterday to discuss the charge.

In any case, Ford has been denied admission to the fraternal State Funeral Directors Association and his relations with fellow Delaware morticians are strained.

Still, while the corpses still were arriving in transfer cases from Jonestown, morticians in the Dover area awaited calls from Ford for their help in embalming the bodies.

They waited in vain.

There were reports that Ford was importing carpet-baggers from Philadelphia to help with this, the biggest undertaking of his career.

Yesterday, this was confirmed.

Ford has an arrangement with the Andrew Nix Funeral Homes in Philadelphia, a big outfit with many resources, and considerably more embalmers than Ford has.

Theophilus Nix, a Wilmington lawyer and brother of Philadelphia's Andrew Nix, said Andrew Nix had backed Ford in the Dover operation from the beginning. Andrew Nix, a cousin of Congressman Robert N.C. Nix of Philadelphia, was Ford's silent partner in the venture, Theophilus Nix said.

The Wilmington lawyer couldn't estimate how much money Ford and brother Andrew were making on the embalming.

Downstate morticians figured the government would spend about \$300,000 in all. A Pentagon spokesman said Ford would get about \$430 for the adults and a little over \$200 for the children.

That covered embalming, the sealed bags in which the bodies were placed, and simple, sealed caskets.

Bill Berry, the Milford mortician who first had the Air Base contract in the days after World War II, said: "He's making plenty of bucks." How much, Berry couldn't say because he didn't know the current arrangements.

Undertakers with more intimate knowledge of the contract and who didn't want their names used said Ford is getting \$200 over the cost of the caskets.

Because of the decomposition of the bodies, "he has to use an enormous amount of chemicals," said one mortician who knows the work. "I figure it costs him \$25 for supplies, \$24 for the two pouches. Then he has to pay the men for the preparation," the undertaker said.

"He ends up with maybe \$50 profit on each body. It's not that much.

"Of course, when you consider the volume..."

Ralph S. Moyed's column appears each Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Evening Journal.

The public has learned to expect a certain kind of behavior from morticians.

One thing that can hurt a funeral director's business is to lose the departed on the way to the cemetery, as one Philadelphia undertaker managed to do this month.

Another way for a mortician to get in trouble is to do a lot of laughing or smiling in public.

But if Earl E. Ford is walking around today with a sparkle in his eyes and a spring in his walk, there are those who would understand.

Earl Ford, owner and operator of Ford Funeral Services in Wilmington, is the man who holds the current government contract for embalming bodies returned from overseas to the Dover Air Force Base.

As the contractor, Ford had the responsibility for processing the bodies of the Rev. Jim Jones and 912 of his followers who killed themselves or were murdered in Jones' settlement in Guyana on Nov. 18.

As his competitors figure it, Ford made a killing on the suicides and murders. The competitors figure that Ford's profits — after costs — amount to at least \$45,000.

Though he apparently had to share some of those profits with a well-connected Philadelphia funeral home, Ford seemed satisfied yesterday with how the big job turned out.

Unclaimed Bodies of Guyana Victims Crowd Dover Base

By MARK MATTHEWS

Dover Bureau

DOVER — Uncertainty over whether bodies of Guyana victims can be legally cremated in the area is creating a backlog of uncollected bodies at Dover Air Force Base, a U.S. State Department lawyer said last night.

"There is a bunching-up at the exit door," said Charles M.

Wyman, the State Department attorney assigned to the base. By yesterday afternoon, 258 of the 913 bodies brought to the base had been released to Dover-area funeral homes for shipment out of state.

Following the cremation of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones in New Jersey last week, the New Jersey attorney general's office began investigating the

cremation of Guyana victims in the state.

New Jersey Deputy Attorney General Charles J. Mysak said state officials would meet soon with representatives of crematories and Delaware funeral homes.

Mysak called it "unlikely" that anyone would be charged in connection with the earlier cremations, even if these had occurred without state approval. Documents supplied with the bodies appear to satisfy the spirit of state law, he said. Mysak said 30 bodies of Guyana victims had been cremated in New Jersey.

Delaware has so far barred cremation or burial of the Guyana victims within the state, saying this can't be done without death certificates.

The state has agreed, however, to allow identified and claimed bodies to be shipped out of state, at relatives' expense.

Now that a Guyana jury's inquest into the mass death is over, Guyana is expected to provide death certificates as soon as possible, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

He said no decision has been made on disposition of unclaimed bodies, but that the department is "optimistic" one will come by Feb. 1. There are no plans to airlift the bodies to California, he said.

The U.S. Defense Department reports it spent \$3.5 million to \$4 million as of Dec. 21 to remove the dead and wounded from Jonestown, Guyana, and process the bodies in Dover.

Air base awaits arrival of bodies

By JANE BROOKS
Dover Bureau

DOVER — Security tightened and special provisions were being made for press and relatives of victims, as Dover Air Force Base prepared last night to receive the first of five scheduled flights bringing 405 bodies from the Peoples Temple mass suicide and massacre in Guyana.

Five C-141 Starlifters from McGuire AFB, N.J., were scheduled to arrive at six-hour intervals, beginning sometime this morning.

An information center for relatives was getting set to open at 6 a.m. in the snack bar of the base golf course on U.S. 113, opposite the air base. On hand were an Air Force information officer, chaplain and representatives of the American Red Cross. A press center was established in the base operations building overlooking the runway.

A total of 174 bodies have been identified, according to an information spokesman, but names were not expected to be available

here until arrival of the first aircraft.

The base mortuary, one of the largest in the country, was a major receiving facility for casualties of the Vietnam War.

Special refrigeration units and grave registration specialists were assembled yesterday as military officials prepared for the grim task.

Officials did not know how many relatives to prepare for. Telephone inquiries from families had been few until last evening. Security around the sprawling installation was tightened to keep out the curious, and identifications were being closely screened.

The massive identification operation was being handled as a "humanitarian gesture to the State Department," said one spokesman. The U.S. government had authorized the Guyana government to begin mass burials of the suicides because of the deterioration of bodies in the tropical heat. But the South American

See DOVER—Page 7, Col. 1

Dover —

Continued from Page One

country insisted all American bodies be removed.

More than 100 military specialists in mortuary procedures were airlifted to Guyana to prepare the bodies, many of them children, for the flights to Dover.

The large cargo planes were using an airstrip 12 miles from the death scene as a take-off point, with military helicopters ferrying the bodies in plastic bags to the waiting aircraft.

Airlift plans for the return of the bodies from Guyana are being coordinated by the 21st Air Force at McGuire.

Asked about the cost of the operation, Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Sadler, commander of the 21st, said, "We've been asking ourselves that question. It's difficult to even estimate."

Another official at McGuire, who asked not to be identified said the cost to U.S. taxpayers could run as high as \$8 million. He said he based his estimate on costs for transporting troops on C-141 jets — about \$1,800 per flying hour including crew pay for each of the more than 30 planes involved.

The Dover base was receiving point for 326 bodies following the April 1977 crash of Pan Am and klm 747 aircraft in the Canary Islands, which killed 557 in the world's worst air disaster.

A team of 90 experts spent almost three weeks identifying the bodies. At the end of the ordeal 114 unidentified people were buried in numbered graves in Southern California, where most of them had lived. Most of the victims of last Saturday's tragedy were also believed to be from California.

The air crash aftermath was conducted — and financed — entirely by Pan American. Dover area morticians were recruited to help by sealing remains into caskets provided by the airline and sharing the task of driving the bodies to Philadelphia International Airport for flights to California.

The current operation is being conducted entirely by the State Department and military — at least in the initial stages.

One local funeral director said he had not been contacted for assistance and did not expect to be because of the nature of the government involvement.

Base spokesmen did not know last night what arrangements would be made for the bodies after

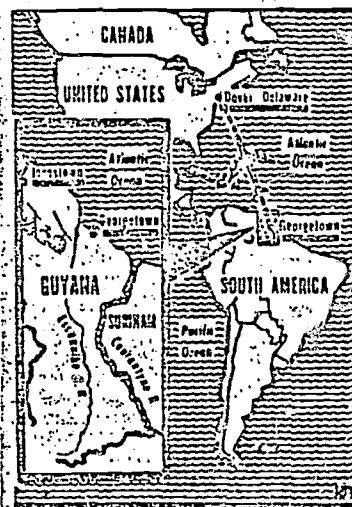
Bodies may be brought to Dover AFB

DOVER—The rotting corpses of more than 400 Americans who died in a mass suicide in Guyana may be airlifted to Dover Air Force Base, U.S. Department of Defense officials have listed Dover among several military bases to which the bodies may be flown, a spokesman at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., said this morning.

C141 cargo planes from McGuire are to transport the bodies back from Guyana Thursday.

Hospital and mortuary officials at the Dover base were meeting this morning to develop plans for handling the bodies if they are sent here.

The base was the site of a similar operation last year when the charred remains of 328 airplane crash victims were flown in from the Spanish island of Tenerife following history's worst aviation disaster.



U.S. military forces are preparing to bring back the bodies of 400 members of the Peoples Temple who died Saturday in Guyana. Plans call for helicopters to fly the bodies to an airstrip near Jonestown, then to Dover, Del., on Air Force C-141 cargo planes.

The Associated Press reported U.S. helicopters have been flown to Guyana to ferry bodies—three or four at a time—from the sweltering jungle encampment of the Peoples Temple, the religious sect whose members poisoned themselves last weekend.

The helicopters will deliver the bodies to a small airstrip in nearby Jonestown, AP said.

The airlift, which involves 20 cargo planes, was set in motion despite messages from U.S. military at the scene saying the situation in Jonestown was "already critical" and saying "the only feasible solution is to provide adequate and dignified interment of remains at the Jonestown site by prompt burial of identified remains."

A State Department spokesman in Washington said Tuesday that the Guyanese government had asked that the United States remove all the bodies.

The rainy season is just beginning in South America, and high temperatures and moist heat speeded decomposition of the bodies.

Some 200 to 700 cult members were believed to have fled into the Guyanese wilderness to escape the weekend suicide call of their leader, the Rev. Jim Jones. Many of the dead drank poison, while others were shot.

The 21st Air Force headquarters here is supervising the airlift of military personnel and supplies into Guyana and the airlift of bodies to the United States.

Mooney said the bodies would be moved to Georgetown for the 5-hour flight to the United States. But reports from the U.S. Embassy in Guyana indicated another airstrip besides that at Georgetown was being considered as the departure point.

In Guyana, U.S. Lt. Col. William Wells said in a telephone interview that personnel at the Jonestown site have counted 405 bodies.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Sadler, who is overseeing the operation here, said reports indicated there were at least 100 children among the dead.

Doctor's Body Identified By FBI Among the Dead

Associated Press

The FBI yesterday said it has identified the body of Dr. Lawrence Eugene Schacht, the Peoples Temple physician who allegedly helped administer the cyanide-laced drink that killed more than 600 members of the cult in the mass suicide-murder in Guyana.

The FBI said Schacht's body was identified from fingerprints compared with a file furnished by the California Bureau of Investigation and Identification.

Schacht's body had been sent to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware with the other victims from the sect's Jonestown jungle settlement in Guyana.

The only other person whose body has been identified positively by the FBI is the Rev. Jim Jones, the leader of the Peoples Temple.

The FBI said Schacht, 30, apparently died from poisoning, and that no bullet wounds had been discovered in his body.

Schacht, a native of Houston, worked for five weeks last year in a children's clinic at San Francisco General Hospital before he left for Guyana.

The Secret Service also is investigating reports that members of the Peoples Temple had plans to assassinate top-ranking U.S. officials, a spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman, Jack Warner Jr., did not specify the targets of the supposed plans. But Secret Service responsibilities are limited to protecting the president, the vice president, members of their families and foreign heads of state.

Warner said the alleged assassination plans "pertain to the protective responsibilities" of the Secret Service.

A source said there is no evidence of any specific "hit list" with the names of public figures in writing. The Secret Service is questioning survivors of the Peoples Temple, Warner said.

The FBI is investigating the death of Rep. Leo Ryan (D-Calif.). However, the Justice Department says federal law restricts FBI jurisdiction to the congressman's assassination and does not allow any broader investigation.

There have been reports that the survivors of the mass suicide included a hit squad of members who had been directed by Jones to carry out assassinations.

Legislator wants bodies out of Del.

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — State Rep. Michael J. Harrington, R-Dover, reacting to calls from constituents, yesterday urged the removal of Peoples Temple victims from Dover to California.

"We cannot allow outside influences to dictate that Delaware should bear the full impact of this unfortunate incident," Harrington wrote state and federal officials.

He suggested that regular military flights to the West Coast could transport the bodies at little cost to taxpayers.

Harrington fears many bodies

will go unclaimed and says the impact of mass burial would be "far less in a state the size of California," where most of the victims lived before going to Guyana.

The body count was revised yesterday from 912 to 911. Air Force Major Robert Groom said 911 had been fingerprinted, and he said the FBI, the State Department and the Defense Department agreed that 911 was the total. The mistake apparently occurred in Guyana, Groom said.

Dover Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr. also has expressed opposition to a mass burial in Dela-

ware, saying he doesn't want his city turned into a "shrine" for Peoples Temple sympathizers.

Local funeral homes are still getting calls from survivors. The homes are telling callers they must request the bodies by telegram, listing the deceased's full name, the name and relationship of person requesting the body, and the funeral director to receive the body on the other end. Families must first be registered with the State Department.

The cost of transporting a body to the Philadelphia Airport is about \$100. Cremation can be done in Delaware for \$100 to \$150.

Sect Leader 'Brutal Disciplinarian'

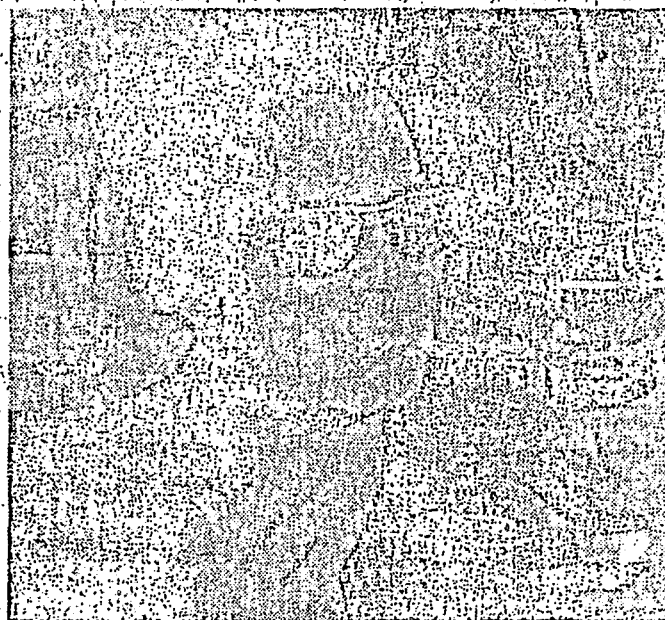
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Rev. Jim Jones carved a careful imagery. His People's Temple cared for its mixed-race flock with self-help programs and a thriving agricultural commune in an idyllic South American setting.

The image cracked when disgruntled former members alleged Jones was an often brutal disciplinarian. The image exploded when sect members shot and killed Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., and four others on a remote Guyanan airstrip. Ten others were wounded.

Conceived in Indianapolis in the 1950s with the avowed purpose of breaking down class distinctions, the Temple moved to Redwood Valley, Calif., in the late 1960s, to San Francisco in 1971.

A sophisticated political manipulator, Jones, 46, became a potent force in San Francisco almost overnight, organizing some 5,000 Temple worshippers into a task force for a host of liberal political campaigns.

Jones, who is married and has seven children, was born in Indiana, the son of a poor, interracial couple. At one time, he could list among his friends Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, who appointed Jones chairman of the city Housing Authority after the Peo-



AP Wirephoto

Cult founder Jim Jones, as filmed by slain NBC-TV cameraman Robert Brown.

ple's Temple helped him win the mayoral election in 1975.

But Jones' star faded after a series of allegations by former members. They complained that his methods of control included beatings and exhausting work schedules, and accused him of extorting huge sums of money and issuing death threats

to anyone who strayed from the church or discredited it.

Former members said Jones' following submitted to his authoritarian regime because his rules and rituals left them financially dependent on the church, terrified and often brainwashed.

Jones called the allegations "outrageous lies," but resigned from the Housing Authority in

August 1977 and went to Guyana with some 1,200 followers to establish the 27,000-acre agricultural colony there.

A news release the Temple issued last year said the Guyana community has rehabilitated many young people "from lives filled with serious problems. We do not brutalize or exploit anyone."

But in an interview last night on the NBC Nightly News, former member Debbie Blakey told how children were disciplined in Jonestown.

"Little children are scared by this thing called 'Bigfoot.' What they do if a child has done anything that most children do, (and it) is considered very bad... they are sent out to see 'Bigfoot.'"

"They are taken into the forest, down by Jones' cabin (to) at well," she said. "Two people would already be in the well, swimming; it's dark and you can't see. The child is thrown in there... and the people that are in there will be grabbing the child's feet or pulling him down, making sure that he comes up for a breath."

"You can hear the child screaming all the way there and... back, 'I'm sorry, father! I'm sorry, father.'"

"If he doesn't scream loud enough how sorry he is, then he'll (Jones) send the child back down," she added.

Maryland State News

Dover, Delaware, Thursday, November 30, 1978

Forty-six bodies identified

DOVER.—The medical search for identification among badly decomposing bodies enters its 11th day with only 46 of the 911 bodies positively identified, a Dover Air Force Base spokesman said.

While the body identification rose by two since Monday's report, the total number of bodies counted was adjusted down by one—from 912 to 911, according to Maj. Robert W. Groom.

"The information we were using from Guyanese and U.S. State Department officials originally indicated 912, but it is now evident that that count was in error," Groom said.

Of the 911 bodies counted and fingerprinted by FBI specialists, 357 have been X-rayed and photographed, and embalmed, Groom said.

Meanwhile, the plea is still out to relatives of Guyana cultists believed dead to send dental records to the U.S. State Department to aid in the painstaking identification process.

Air Base officials are still "discouraging" relatives or friends of the Guyanese dead from coming to Dover in person, Groom said.

"There is nothing for them to do here, there is no identification by sight being done," he said. "We just don't have the facilities here to handle the massive influx of people."

Groom called a report by ABC news Wednesday night that families were being turned away from the Air Base "an attempt to stir up something unusual." Only about a half dozen families have visited Dover in person with inquiries, he said.

Groom also mentioned problems Base officials would have if a large number of people claiming ties with the dead started showing up at the Base. "How would you be able to identify the immediate family?"

"We've got a mission to perform, and that's the Strategic Air Command," Groom said, referring to efforts by Base officials to normalize Base operations even while the gruesome identification and body storage continues there.

So far, none of the 911 bodies have left the Air Base mortuary, Groom said.

But several area funeral directors say they have been contacted by families, either inquiring about body preparation for transit out of state, or actually making arrangements for transportation of corpses.

And still no decisions have been made regarding the disposal of unclaimed bodies, according to State Department officials.

Official okay given for Jones' autopsy

DOVER—Permission to perform an autopsy on the body of cult leader Rev. Jim Jones at Dover Air Force Base morgue was granted Thursday by relatives of Jones, a U.S. Justice Department spokesman said.

Jones' two adopted sons, who flew from Guyana to New York Thursday night, have given permission for the autopsy, Justice spokesman Robert Havel said.

The Guyana government had earlier requested autopsies for the bodies of Jones and about five others, to aid its investigation of the slaying of U.S. Congressman Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and four others Nov. 18.

Meanwhile, some 80 families of Guyana dead are ready to receive bodies, according to U.S. state department lawyer Michael J. White.

But it is uncertain whether any corpses will leave Dover Air Force Base today, White said.

"The Delaware government officials are still reviewing the papers needed to remove the bodies," White said.

In addition to documents from the Guyana government stating that the bodies were moved legally, and a Delaware attorney general's opinion that they can be removed from Delaware, each corpse needs papers from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, White said.

Area funeral directors also must sign releases for removal of the bodies, White said.

As of late Thursday, 577 of the 911 cadavers had been positively identified by pathologists who have been working for nearly two weeks on the task of body processing.

NEWS WEEK, NOV. 30-DEC. 6, 1978

SCHMIDTSOPHRENIA

by Jim Schmidt

SECURITY, which used to be remarkably lax at Dover Air Force Base, is now remarkably tight as I found on a couple of recent visits there.

You may remember a few years back when a reporter and photographer from the local daily managed to go on the base, get out to the flight line and climb aboard a C-5 without ever being challenged. It's highly unlikely that could happen today.

Of course, security was extra tight during the gruesome process of bringing in those hundreds of bodies from the Guyana affair. I went out at 5 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to see the arrival of the first plane, possibly just out of sheer curiosity — something reporters are supposedly blessed (or cursed) with.

For a time I wasn't even sure I was going to get past the base gate since about the only ID that I could come up with was an outdated press card from the Delaware State Police. And, after I got there and stood shivering in the pre-dawn darkness, I began to wonder why I hadn't stayed home in my warm bed.

Curiously, I got the impression that when I told the security policeman I represented News Week he got the impression I meant the national magazine, and he didn't want to stir up a lot of fuss with that power of the press.

As for the event itself, there is little to add to the millions of words, pictures and descriptions that have already been written.

NEWS WEEK, JAN. 4-13, 1979

TO THE EDITOR

Guyana bodies

Dear Joe:

I'm writing this letter to voice strong objections to the U.S. taxpayer being forced to pay \$8 million or more, because of some arbitrary decision to send the Air Force to Guyana to pick up the dead bodies of the 'Temple of God' cult.

I don't think, if anything happened to me on a European odyssey I took a few years ago, that the Air Force would have brought me home. Is this now to set a precedent for Americans who die overseas, violently or otherwise—that the U.S. Air Force will go over to retrieve them? At no obligation?

In scanning the papers and the TV news, I have heard only one Congressman, from Rhode Island, voice any objection to this raid on our treasury.

Allow me to put forth the following questions:

These people went to Guyana voluntarily, and with the approval of that government, and no doubt, with some financial remuneration to Guyana for the land. Is not that country liable for anything?

What happened to the money that was found at the site? What about any funds that cult may have in American banks? Can't that organization be charged for this expense?

What about the relatives of the identified bodies? Should they not be held financially responsible for shipment of their relatives back to California?

And finally, does Delaware and Kent County have to take the responsibility for their final burial (if indeed they are buried)?

A publicly voiced demand for some answers by the Senator from Delaware would be welcomed by many people around here.

With regards,
J.A. Costello
Editor,
Delaware News Week

599 Death Certificates in U.S. Hands May Free Some Bodies Held at Dover

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — The long impasse over disposition of the bodies of some People's Temple murder-suicide victims in Delaware may be eased by 599 death certificates received yesterday from Guyana by the U.S. State Department.

Delaware officials said the certificates are at least a start in

providing needed documentation of death, which is required before any of the Jonestown victims can be disposed of in the state.

But confusion still exists over the handling of 631 bodies stored in three hangar bays at Dover Air Force Base.

It is still uncertain whether the state medical examiner should investigate the deaths further before burial or cremation is allowed in Delaware, according to Assistant Attorney General Edward F. Kafader.

Kafader said Delaware officials are expecting the death certificates, as well as a Guyana coroner's report.

Autopsies were performed at Dover on only seven of the 913 bodies brought here after cult leader Jim Jones led People's Temple members in a death ritual last Nov. 18.

State Department lawyer

Charles M. Wyman, assigned to the base, said yesterday the federal government "has neither the legal authority nor the funds to transport the bodies out of the state."

"I don't know what the solution is going to be," Wyman said. "Obviously there's going to be a solution. We can't leave them there in the hangar."

Of the 282 bodies released, many have been shipped to next of kin at relatives' expense.

After 29 others, including that of Jones, were cremated in New Jersey, officials there said state regulations had been violated, bringing New Jersey cremations to at least

a temporary halt.

The scattering of Jones' ashes in the Atlantic is awaiting cremation of others of the five members of his family who died with him in Guyana.

Cyanide is identified in Temple cult deaths

By FRANK KRZYWICKI
Staff Writer

DOVER — The "vast majority" of the 599 People's Temple victims whose death certificates arrived from Guyana Thursday died of "acute cyanide poisoning," a U.S. Department of State official said.

The Guyanese government this week came through with two-thirds of the certificates for the 913 cult victims, state department lawyer Bruce E. Dozier said.

Statements on the death certificates revealed that while most of them died of cyanide poisoning, a smaller number died from gunshot wounds or cuts to the throat, Dozier said.

Meanwhile, there are more than two-thirds of the total number of corpses still at the Dover Air Force Base morgue, as body identification and transportation out of Delaware have inched along.

And it is still uncertain whether the Guyana death certificates are enough

under Delaware law to allow burial or cremation in Delaware.

By late Thursday only 282 bodies had left Delaware, and only 635 bodies had been identified, a base spokesman said. Since Dec. 21, FBI agents had managed to identify only two bodies.

"It's slowing down to a standstill here," said an Air Base information spokesman. "A lot of people don't have the money to pick up bodies, that seems to be the biggest problem."

He mentioned a call that was received by the Base information office this week by a woman in her 60s and on a fixed income, who said she could not afford to pay for shipping the remains of her 11 relatives who perished in Guyana.

"All we could do was suggest she contact her church or the Red Cross," the air base spokesman said.

The 599 Guyanese death certificates were issued after completion of a Guyana coroner's inquest into the cause of death of the victims, Dozier said.

Whether the death certificates satisfy Delaware officials enough to allow any to be buried or cremated in Delaware has not been settled yet, Dozier said.

"We hope to call (Delaware officials) real soon, now that we have the death certificates in hand," he said.

Guyanese government officials are still working to provide certificates for the 36 remaining bodies that have been positively identified, Dozier said.

The State Department is also working on getting 92 more sets of fingerprints of still unidentified victims that the Guyana officials said they possess, Dozier said.

And state department officials are working with representatives from San Francisco and Los Angeles, Ca., to try to locate additional dental charts, medical records, and footprints of the remaining 278 unidentified corpses.

The bulk of the unidentified bodies are children whose records are scarce or insufficient, FBI spokesman Thomas B. Coll said.

Ancient edict: Bury the dead

They'd better get those Jonestown dead out of Delaware territory and have them buried elsewhere or there will be dire consequences.

Already the necromancers are beginning to develop weird stories about the restless spirits of the Jonestown dead flitting around St. Jones Neck in Kent County.

The first thing you know, the entire area of the Dover Air Base will be filled with wild legends about ghosts seen in and around the planes.

Strange stories are filtering up here about shadows being spotted in the vicinity of Lebanon, Voshell's Pond and even over into the Bombay Hook country.

Those chilling noises heard on moonlit nights are not the honking of geese but allegedly the turbulent spirits of the Jonestown dead, crying out for bell, book, and candle.

I'm sure Gov. Pete du Pont won't fall for any such nonsense but he just might consider appointing a special commission of experts who are versed in the art of dispelling spirits — and I don't mean libations.

The Dover area already has enough ghosts, what with those associated with the Governors House and the phantom of Chief Justice Chew on the Dover Green and the whole range of phantasmagoria in Kent County.

You think I'm high on pot? Don't kid yourself. "Bury the dead." This is an ancient obligation of the living.

The command goes way back to the primordial days. Even the Bible has a commandment along that line, dealing for example, with criminals who are executed.

The command is that a criminal must be buried as soon as possible.

And those of you who are familiar with the ways of the ancient Greeks will recall Sophocles' drama, "Antigone," wherein Creon, the tyrant, issues an order that Polynices is not to be buried.

But along comes Polynices' sister, Antigone, and defies Creon's order. She is motivated by the divine rule that the dead must be buried or else the dead is doomed to wander the earth.

So Antigone buries her brother and suffers the consequences of being imprisoned in an underground vault.

And then there's the almost forgotten one-act play by Irwin Shaw of more modern times, "Bury the Dead." A story of World War I American soldiers who refuse to be buried in protest against war. This sets Washington on its ears because the bureaucrats know that the unburied dead can haunt them.

The Shaw play written in 1936 was so dramatically anti-war that it was withdrawn from circulation when the U.S. got into World War II.

Even cremation or the rapid reduction of a body to ashes, is still repugnant to several religions.

Nonetheless, the legal respect for cemeteries is most impressive. Our lawbooks are filled with statutes protecting cemeteries and their contents.

And don't you remember the time Dr. Ali Z. Hameli, our state medical examiner, got into hot water because he wanted to preserve for scientific purposes, the skeleton of a poor unfortunate person's unclaimed body?

After much agitation and public controversy, the remains were given decent burial.

The state even provides a plot for unclaimed bodies, known as Potters Field, such as it is — and a pretty sorry mess the old Potters Field is today.

With all this as background — folklore, superstition, respect for



Bill Frank

the dead — it would seem that President Carter with all his clout, can say to his underlings:

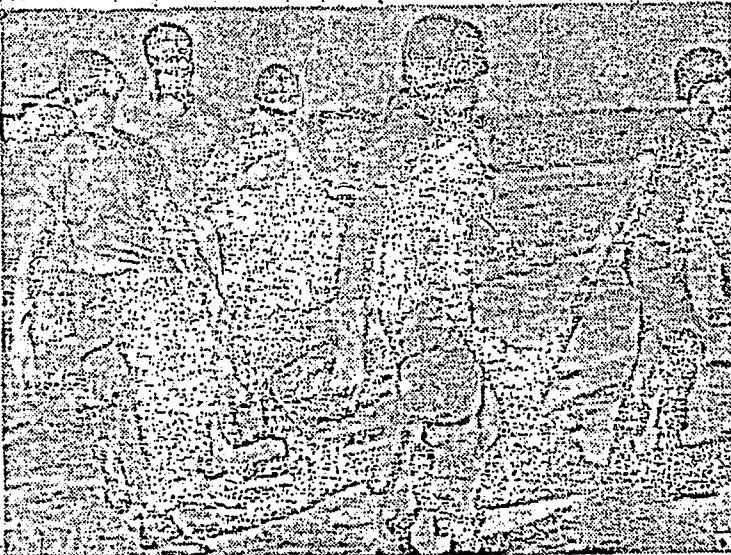
"Look, do something about those

Jonestown dead there in Dover and do it quickly."

I suspect when the Jonestown story is finally wrapped up and filed, we'll learn what a terrible mess the feds made of the whole thing.

I'll even wager that the final story will reveal a terrible waste of money and manpower. It all could have been handled a lot more efficiently by Dr. Hameli's office and his resources.

What Delaware doesn't want are those bodies here any longer; certainly no burials on Delaware soil; definitely no bodies in our Potters Fields, and positively no ashes strewn around on Delaware soil.



AP Wirephoto

Last body from Jonestown

carried by U.S. servicemen

Body Decision by Feb., U.S. Tells Dover

DOVER — The unclaimed bodies from Jonestown, Guyana, will remain stacked in a warehouse at Dover Air Force Base until the State Department decides what to do with them— and that could be until February.

"I think that's a reasonable amount of time," Delaware Republican Congressman Republican Thomas B. Evans Jr. said yesterday after State Department officials promised a decision by Feb. 1.

But Evans made it clear at a Washington, D.C. news conference that since Delaware resi-

dents were not involved in Guyana, most "Delawareans feel their state is not a proper final resting place."

Delaware wants the bodies shipped to California, home for most of the followers of the Rev. Jim Jones, although the federal government shies at further cost to its taxpayers.

So far, the Pentagon says, it's spent about \$4 million on the Guyana airlift. Evans said another \$100,000 to ship the now embalmed bodies to California wouldn't make much difference.

The Justice Department still is

thinking about seizing the assets of the Peoples Temple, reportedly totaling millions of dollars, to finance the final disposition of the bodies. That's one reason a decision is still more than a month away, Evans said.

The congressman said 676 bodies remain of the more than 900 brought to Dover. He said the Pentagon hopes to complete the identification "in a matter of days."

But with 280 bodies still unidentified, the process of identification at Dover has come to a halt while officials await more fingerprints

from Guyana.

Base mortuary officer Charles Carson said his staff was busy yesterday moving all remaining bodies from the mortuary to a warehouse, and thus he had not summoned morticians to claim 10 or 12 bodies ready for release.

But he also said the number of requests from relatives seeking to claim bodies has dropped.

Meanwhile, New Jersey officials were upset that the body of Jones was brought there, cremated and the ashes returned to Delaware by Dover mortician William C. Torbert.

Officials beginning to doubt many cultists fled into jungle

By JON NORDHEIMER
New York Times Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Guyanese government patrols spent yesterday in a vain search for California cultists who might have survived the mass suicide and killings at their jungle commune by fleeing into the bush. The failure of their search increased doubts that hundreds had survived.

A high-ranking Guyanese official, speaking of the continuing jungle search, said: "The fact of

the matter is that we do not possess a scrap of hard evidence that a lot of people fled into the jungle."

Sherwin Harris, whose daughter and former wife died in the mass suicide and killings, recalled that no more than 600 names had appeared on a petition signed last week by members of the cult, protesting a visit by Rep. Leo Ryan of California.

Ryan, who visited the commune to investigate charges that members were suffering abuse, was

killed by cultists Saturday night as he was about to leave for the United States from a nearby dirt airstrip. Four other Americans were also killed, and the mass suicides and killings followed.

The Guyanese government official, in expressing doubt that many cultists had fled into the jungle, said that if any remained there and were in good health, they could seek the help of the Amerindians. They are a nomadic group of about 50 families of abori-

See SURVIVORS—Page 5, Col. 4

SURVIVORS—

Continued from Page One

gines who live in thatched-roof dwellings spread out over miles of jungle paths known to the cult.

These trails, leading from Jonestown, the cult's farm, have been searched by government patrols because they might be the only routes over which a great number of people could have moved through the thick jungle without getting lost.

Several dozen stragglers have indeed re-emerged from the jungle, but none has talked of a mass flight from the village last Saturday night when the cult's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, reportedly gave an order that everyone drink a poisonous brew prepared by the cult's medical officer.

That — and the absence of clues

The Morning News, Wilmington, Del., Friday, Nov. 24, 1978 • • • 5

along the jungle trails — have led to the troubling suspicion that there are many survivors, that the size of the community has been inflated and that, except for the survivors already rounded up and perhaps a few more roaming around in the bush, the People's Temple has been wiped out.

On the other hand, there is evidence that the density of the jungle has been overstated by reports from the isolated area, and that it was possible for a large group to cover a long distance quickly.

The jungle around Jonestown, while certainly inhospitable to human life in many ways, is not impenetrable like the jungles of Burma, for instance, where one has to cut a path in order to move.

The Jonestown area bears little resemblance to Hollywood fanta-

sies of a tropical jungle. Adrian D. Thompson, a Guyanese horticulturalist, offered these examples; the piranha, except for the smallest species that "can be troublesome," do not harm people; bush-master snake can kill a person if it is big enough, but in most cases death is caused by an improperly applied tourniquet; there are few animals of any size, and the jaguar, fearsome in jungle lore, runs away from people; the local Indians, rather than being hostile, might actually feed and shelter their neighbors.

Chuck Farmer, a bush pilot who has spent more than 10 years prospecting for gold and diamonds in the area of the search, said that individuals could survive more than two weeks without supplies.

Search parties probe jungle for survivor

Continued from Page One

Defense Department officials in Washington said Guyana asked that U.S. helicopters be equipped with louspeakers to help contact the survivors. They emphasized no U.S. forces would be engaged in the search on the ground.

Jim Jones ordered the mass suicide, a ritual he code-named "White Knight" and had rehearsed with his followers, after sect members ambushed and killed Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California and four members of Ryan's party that made an investigative visit to the camp.

Jones was one of three persons who died of gunshot wounds, apparently self-inflicted. About one-quarter of the dead were children, some babies whose mothers reportedly fed them the brew of Kool Aid and cyanide.

U.S. officials have said 14 survivors reappeared in Jonestown and Guyanese authorities say three sect members have been arrested in connection with the attack on Ryan's party at the Port Kaituma airstrip, eight miles south of Jonestown.

Barker said about 40 settlers had been found both at Jonestown and Port Kaituma, but he gave no breakdown of the figures.

Guyanese familiar with the area questioned whether the fugitives could long survive without shelter and steady food supplies in a jungle filled with swamps and crisscrossed by streams and rivers inhabited by piranhas and electric eels. The rainy season is just starting.

Barker said there were indications some of the survivors were working in the jungle and when they returned to the camp and saw the bodies they gathered food sup-

plies and went back into the bush.

Jones is known to have instilled a fervid will to survive among some of his followers, telling them their settlements could become sanctuaries where they would escape a nuclear holocaust or other calamity. A fear that outsiders were about to destroy their small society apparently triggered the mass suicide.

About 200 Guyanese troops and police were trying to track down the survivors, but officials said they were hampered by thick brush. There is only one road in the area, and its potholed surface turns to mud with the rains. Aerial surveillance is nearly useless because of the heavy tree cover.

State Department official John Bushnell said in Washington about half the bodies at the camp had been tentatively identified, but names were not released.

Washington, responding to the Guyanese request that all bodies be removed, said C-141 transports would leave Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina carrying grave registration specialists and equipment.

The Dover (Del.) Air Force Base has a C-54 cargo jet on standby to pick up the bodies in Guyana, according to Lt. Joseph Saxton, information officer. "But we really don't know if a trip will be made," he said.

Son, 6, a Custody Pawn, Died Beside Leader

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — John Victor Stoen, born six years ago of highly educated parents immersed in the People's Temple cult, died on a crude wooden platform next to the man he believed to be his father, the Rev. Jim Jones, according to unconfirmed reports out of Guyana.

More than 400 members of the religious commune at Jonestown fulfilled a murder-suicide pact, some by shooting and others by feeding poison to young children in the camp, then drinking the concoction themselves.

Jones' body was found on the platform, with a woman and child next to it. The Stoen boy was known to be at the jungle enclave, and reports indicated he was the

dead child lying beside Jones.

John was at the center of a heated year-long custody battle between his parents, Timothy and Grace Stoen, and Jones, leader of the sect.

Jones maintained he was the boy's father, basing his claim on a document signed by Stoen in 1972 asking Jones to father a child with Mrs. Stoen.

"I entreated my beloved pastor, James W. Jones, to sire a child by my wife, Gracy Lucy (Gretch) Stoen, who has previously at my insistence, reluctantly and graciously, consented thereto," said Stoen in the document.

The paper adds, "My reason for requesting James W. Jones to do this is that I wanted my child to be

fathered, if not by me, then by the most compassionate, honest and courageous human being."

Stoen, a former assistant prosecutor in Mendocino County, a former deputy district attorney in San Francisco and now a Berkeley lawyer, says he and his wife were attracted to the People's Temple in the late 1960s. Stoen became one of Jones' chief lieutenants.

John was born in 1972. First his mother, then his father became disenchanted with life at the temple, according to Stoen's brother, Jonathan Stoen of Golden, Colo.

Mrs. Stoen withdrew from the group, but Jonathan Stoen said his brother and young John went to Guyana in 1977. Then, when Stoen tried to leave the commune, Jones

stopped him from taking John with him.

The Stoens filed suit late last year to get their son back, and a California judge granted them custody this year, ordering Jones to surrender the child. Jones refused, arguing that John threatened to commit suicide if returned to his mother.

In a radio-telephone conversation from Jonestown last February, Jones said, "I am the father. Why would I risk my reputation for a child that they (the Stoens) have abandoned, unless it was mine?"

Jonathan Stoen said his brother and sister-in-law were instrumental in persuading Rep. Leo Ryan to travel to Guyana to investigate the camp.

Mass deaths and madness

The still unfolding story of the mass murder-suicides in the jungles of Guyana is a powerful reminder of the fragility of the human spirit.

Some of what happened last weekend in the attack on U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan and his party, can be grasped intellectually, if not emotionally. The congressman was a threat to the bizarre sect known as the Peoples Temple. As unjustified and horrible as the attack was our minds can sort it out.

But when hundreds of men, women and children are led into a well-rehearsed suicide ritual that is quite another thing. Such things

There are warnings that Jim Jones, the sect leader had used brutal methods to keep his band in tow. Yet the mesmerizing effect Jones had on those who joined his group speaks of a yearning for belonging, for salvation that he somehow satisfied.

When Jones' followers lined up last Saturday, as they had so many times before, to be given their measure of poison they crossed that line between fervor and madness.

The horror of this tragedy in a remote jungle has poignancy for all of us. In our complete and stressful society we all flirt with madness perhaps more than we know.

Cultists' Father: 'I Won't Despair'

By TYLER WELSHIMER
and ROD GRAMER
Gannett News Service

GARDEN CITY, Idaho — Seventy-four-year-old Mike Carter's entire family, including his children and grandchildren, were members of the People's Temple in Guyana.

The State Department told Carter last night two daughters-in-law and a grandchild were found dead at the Jonestown camp. His two sons are alive. The fate of his daughter, Terri, and two other grandchildren is not known.

Before he learned of the deaths, Carter, a widower who lives in the Boise suburb of Garden City, had said if some of his family were among the victims: "I won't despair...If the Lord needs good helpers up there in heaven, he has picked good workers."

Carter's descendants lived in the People's Temple settlement for 18 months. Each of his three children had a child born in Guyana.

Carter, in an interview before the State Department contacted him, said reports about Jonestown, near where California Congressman Leo Ryan and four others were murdered Saturday, disturbed him. Ryan was on a fact-finding mission into alleged beatings, imprisonments and

extortion of members of the People's Temple.

"It's absurd. Do my children look unhappy?" asked Carter, a retired federal employee, as he gestured toward pictures of his children and their spouses.

Holding a pamphlet entitled "JONESTOWN: A Model of Cooperation," Carter said, "If my kids weren't happy, I'd know about it." He said he received letters regularly from Tim, 30, Terri, 24, and Mike Jr., 20.

Attributing the killings to a "fringe element," Carter said he

is not concerned about his children's safety but fears the publicity may hurt the People's Temple.

"My son, Tim, was just here to visit me last week. They (People's Temple) straightened him up when he was sort of bumming around after he got out of the service. I asked him what prompted him to join them. He said it was 'because they accomplish something for people.' They don't smoke, drink or take drugs."

The Carters' involvement with the People's Temple began in the early 1970s when Tim began associating with the group in San Francisco. Daughter Terri went to the group's ranch in Ukiah, Calif., in 1973 to help mentally retarded patients there. Carter said Mike, who had just completed ninth grade in Boise, visited the ranch in 1974.

Carter said he has met several supervisors of the People's Temple and some members. He said they all seemed happy and responsible.

"My kids never believed in working purely for money. I feel they're helping people," Carter said.

'Hit squad' for cult led by woman

Berkeley, Calif. — (UPI) — A trail 5-foot-7 woman has been identified by ex-followers of the Rev. Jim Jones as the director of the "hit teams" he allegedly formed to attack defectors from his People's Temple.

Ten former cult members said that Terri J. Buford, 30, was the "mastermind" for the hit squads. They said she lived at the sect's San Francisco headquarters in a six-by-four-foot closet alongside file cabinets containing the data on those to be murdered.

The former cultists said the list contained orders for the attacks to start after the long-planned mass suicide of the temple's faithful. Ms. Buford had standing orders from Jones to carry out the orders, they said.

Where Ms. Buford is or when the executions may start was unknown.

The ex-cultists said she is capable of anything.

She's a masochist, said Grace Stoen, a former power broker among the cult's hierarchy who said she knew Ms. Buford well.

Wednesday night, the People's Temple refuted the "hit teams" charge.

The charge that we have an assassination squad is an out-and-out lie.

Repeating these lies places our own lives in danger. Our sole thought at this time is for the well-being of loved ones, temple spokesman Tim Clancy said.

When members of the temple first heard of these vicious lies, we personally invited the deputy chief of police and several representatives of the media to inspect the building. We are in daily communication with Police Chief (Charles) Gain and Deputy Chief (Gerald) Demicis.

Our building is under 24-hour police protection as we have had several bomb threats this week already and receive threatening phone calls continuously.

The former cult members said the death teams included a man married for 24 years who has become a monster.

Another team member used to scream "Kill 'em all! Kill 'em all!" during church council meetings, the defectors said.

We have a knowledge of a purported "hit squad" and "hit list," San Francisco Police Chief Gain said in a statement.

We have knowledge of it, and we are doing all we can reasonably do to determine if such a list exists.

But both Gain and FBI agents declined to give specifics of their investigations.

My husband (Don) is the one that put the knife to Congressman (Leo) Ryan's throat, said another onetime follower, Neva Sly.

She said tearfully that she is certain he is now one of Jones' death "angels."

Ryan, a California Democrat, and four others were slain last weekend while on a fact-finding tour of the People's Temple in Guyana. The slayings were followed by the mass murder suicides.

My main plea is to the assassinations squad — my husband is one of them, Mrs. Sly said. Please stop! People have a right to their beliefs.

Cult official investigated Ryan earlier

San Francisco — (UPI) — A top aide to People's Temple leader Jim Jones was in the San Francisco Bay area two weeks ago posing as a defector to gain information on Rep. Leo J. Ryan, the San Francisco Chronicle reports in a copyrighted story.

Ryan, a California Democrat, was investigating Jones when he and four others were shot to death Saturday near Jonestown, Guyana. The mass suicide-murder of some 400 People's Temple members followed.

The Chronicle said yesterday that Tim Carter, 30, reportedly one of Jones' "chief enforcers," came to the bay area on a secret mission from Jonestown Nov. 8-10 and returned to South America just before Ryan and his party left for Guyana Nov. 14.

Carter was arrested Wednesday in Georgetown, Guyana, and is being held on undisclosed charges.

The Chronicle said Carter, who may have lost a wife and daughter in the mass suicide-murder, infiltrated the Human Freedom Center in Berkeley by posing as a defector from the People's Temple.

Jeannie Mills, a center co-founder and former cult member, said Carter asked for counseling and occasionally expressed interest in Ryan's announced plans to travel to Guyana.

He wanted to know who was going on the trip with Ryan and when they were leaving, Ms. Mills said. He pulled it off real well. I was really impressed.

After visiting the center, Carter dropped from sight. Authorities believe he then returned to Guyana to relay information to Jones.

Paranoia, drugs ruled Jones: son

By LEONARD GREENWOOD
Los Angeles Times Service

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The Rev. Jim Jones, who led more than 400 followers of his Peoples Temple religious sect to their deaths in a killing-and-suicide outbreak at their jungle commune, was egotistical, paranoid and probably dependent on drugs, his son, Stephan, 19, told a press conference here yesterday.

Jones, his wife Marcy, one of his mistresses, Maria Katsaris, and 402 of his followers died Saturday night at Jonestown, the agricultural settlement he founded four years ago.

Painting a powerful portrait of the disintegration of a man he had once loved, Stephan Jones said, "Jonestown was half Jim Jones' genius and the other half was his paranoia."

"He claimed he was afraid of nothing, which I know was bull. He was a very frightened man."

"He claimed he had no ego, but it was totally the opposite. He had one of the biggest egos I have ever seen in my life."

"My father said he was a dying man and he listed a number of illnesses, including heart troubles. He feared for his life so much, but I never dreamt he would do anything like this."

Asked how history might see Jones, his son replied: "I don't care. I can almost say I hate this man, because he has destroyed everything I have lived for."

Stephan Jones said that between him and his father there had grown a strong conflict, and he had tried to ease his father out of the decision-making process in the community because he was afraid of where his father's increasing paranoia would lead them.

"My father has not been a well man. He took quite a bit of drugs for all his ailments. He was no longer himself and my mother, who was a nurse, felt he had become dependent on the drugs."

Stephan Jones was not at Jonestown the night of the mass killings. He had been in Georgetown, capital of Guyana, since Nov. 6, playing in a series of tournaments with the settlement basketball team. There are about 40 members of the sect who were in Georgetown at the time of the killing and all of them are under protective custody that they sought from the Guyanese police.

The sect's lawyer, Mark Lane, who was one of the few survivors of the mass killing, to reach Georgetown so far, said Monday that the people died not in a mass suicide pact but in a mass murder. Lane said men armed with automatic weapons encircled the sect followers and "it was either poison or a bullet."

Jones said he agreed with Lane. "There was no way it could have been suicide," he said. "They had to be forced."

Stephan Jones said there had been about 900 people in the commune at the time of the mass killings. This left nearly 500 people unaccounted for.

"If I were one of the survivors in the jungle I would be scared," he said. "I'm worried about them. I love these people. They were my

brothers. I want to see them. I want to know who is living and who is dead."

Jones said he had not known there were automatic weapons in the community. He had known only about a .22-caliber rifle he used to kill pigs and a few shotguns.

He also denied he had known about large amounts of cash in American currency notes in the commune. Police and troops who went into the remote settlement said they found half a million dollars in \$100 bills.

"These reports have made me even more angry," said the young Jones. "The people were living a very rough life, and he (his father) could have done so much for the people with that kind of money."

Cult defectors claim hit squads ready to kill

By JACK SCHREIBMAN

BERKELEY, Calif. — Defectors from the death-marred Peoples Temple claim hit squads are scattered around the country hoping to deal out murder to those who broke away from the cult of the Rev. Jim Jones.

Wanda Johnson, a former believer in the Jones movement, lives in a two-story yellow stucco house on the edge of Berkeley with other rebels whose cause now is their own survival and that of the other disaffected.

"I know there are 200 people that Jones set up to stay alive and to assassinate us," said Mrs. Johnson, still shocked by the murder and ritual suicide last weekend at the Temple colony in Jonestown, Guyana.

In addition to the hit squads, Mrs. Johnson said, Jones "set aside money that if the assassination squads did not accomplish their mission, the Mafia was to be contacted and contracts were to be taken on our lives."

She said the death squads were scattered around the country, but gave no details.

In San Francisco, police Sgt. Gerald McNaughton said authorities were aware of the feelings of the Peoples Temple defectors that their lives were in danger. He said constant surveillance was being maintained at the Temple church building on Geary Street.

On Monday night at San Francisco International Airport, the FBI was present at a news conference where reporters talked with relatives who had just returned from Guyana and took steps to make sure all the reporters were bonafide.

Another defector, Grace Stoen, scoffed at the idea that a crime syndicate might have had a relationship with Jones.



Airmen at Dover Air Force Base roll coffins from the hangar for pickup by local mortician. Special to The Inquirer / KEITH MEYERS

7 bodies released in Dover

By Vernon Loebe
Special to The Inquirer

DOVER, Del. — Some of the bodies of Guyana suicide-murder victims were released for burial yesterday, with little of the commotion that marked their arrival at the Dover Air Force Base beginning Thanksgiving Day.

A noon yesterday, with a heavy rain falling, the doors of an aircraft hangar were opened to reveal more than 700 neatly stacked, steel-gray coffins.

The rest of the 911 bodies brought here last month are stored elsewhere on the base.

As reporters and photographers but no relatives looked on, a small procession of hearses from local funeral homes pulled up, and as military and U. S. State Department officials kept a careful record, four soldiers quickly and efficiently loaded seven of the caskets into the hearses.

It is expected that most of the bodies will be sent to the West Coast, where many of the Jonestown commune members were originally from.

It took only a few minutes to move the bodies yesterday, then the hangar doors were closed again.

Three more bodies will be released today, a base official said, and about 20 others might be released tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the tedious, unpleasant job of identifying the bodies continues. At the end of last week, 592 had been positively identified.

Relatives of more than 400 victims have been notified, officials say, and about 150 relatives have made arrangements for transferring the bodies.

The fact that there was little pomp and circumstance surrounding the beginning of the body transfers yesterday did not surprise Michael J. Ambruso, one of the funeral directors who picked up the bodies.

"Uncle Sam is not in the business of ceremony," he said. "Their job is not to memorialize the dead. Their job is to help the living (family members)."

"They did the best job of storage that they could with that number of caskets involved," Ambruso said. "I even took notice of how they were properly stacked in the hangar — it was done with a tremendous amount of care."

In a bus that had carried a small group of reporters and photographers to the hangar, Maj. Robert W. Groom, the base information officer, said with a hint of fatigue that the mortuary work at the base had "been a very long process."

"Until it's determined by the State Department and the officials of the State of Delaware what will be done with the unclaimed remains, there really isn't an end in sight," he said.

Dover residents have feared that many of the bodies might never be claimed or identified, and the State Department has assured officials in Delaware that there would be no mass burials in the state. Mortuary officials say the bodies of many of the children may be impossible to identify.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said yesterday that of the more than 400 victims' relatives who had been contacted, only about 25 said they did not intend to claim the bodies.

After a week of complex legal negotiations between officials of Delaware and the State Department, only the bodies that have been claimed by families for burial in other states have been approved for release from the base.

State officials here are awaiting legal certification from the Guyanese government before permitting either burial or cremation. One funeral director who picked up a body at the base yesterday said it was being shipped immediately to New Jersey for cremation.

Suicides in Guyana are linked by press to turmoil of 1960s

Associated Press

The mass suicide of hundreds of Americans in the Guyanan jungle was viewed by some of the foreign press yesterday as rooted in the 1960s, the era that spawned both the "flower children" and the mass murders by the Charles Manson family. The Soviet press said that the poisoning rite in remote Jonestown, Guyana, was a symptom of the American way of life in which millions are the victims of an inhumane society. The official Tass news agency said that U.S. press coverage of the events in Guyana "avoids the fundamental question of why the People's Temple and many similar religious sects exist in the United States." "Only a few individual observers admit that what they are talking about is one of the products of the notorious American way of life," Singapore's Straits Times said that "the People's Temple tragedy serves to demonstrate that the communes, sects and other fringe groups which have opted out of mainstream America not only continue to exist but apparently acquire new converts daily." The suicides took place after members of the cult led by the Rev. Jones, attached and killed Rep. Leo Ryan of California, three members of the press and a cultist attempting to

leave the commune.

"They do not want, are confused by, the near-total freedom of choice in countries like America," the Straits Times said of the cultists. "They opt for leadership by a strongly charismatic personality in an atmosphere of emotional excitement."

New sensations

Comparing the protests of the 1960s with the situation in the 1970s, the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter said: "The individual way of self-fulfillment has included more of drugs, of extreme religiousness and of sexual experiment. The demand for new sensations has gradually increased... in the hunt for new happenings death becomes the last absolute trip."

The Hong Kong Standard called it "one of the strangest social phenomena of modern times: the emergence of fanaticism, religious or otherwise, in a highly industrialized society like the United States."

The Paris newspaper Le Monde, however, said that the mass suicide was literally un-American.

"It would have been inconceivable and impossible on American soil, regardless of whether the victims were willing or not. They needed to be uprooted, transported into the heart of the jungle and transformed into the convicts of a delirious faith in a messiah unleashing his instincts of domination and death to become self-destructive robots."

Inconceivable

Copenhagen's Berlingske Tidende said: "The events in Guyana with the shooting down of the visiting Americans followed by the inconceivable mass suicide testify to the power over people certain religious sects and their leaders can exercise."

Le Matin of Paris said: "Perhaps never, apart from the (Nazi German) SS or Japanese Kamikazes, has there been such a demonstration of fanaticism."

Tokyo's Mainichi Shimbun said that blacks and other poor groups that went to California seeking jobs were disappointed in the reality they found, prompting many to turn to religion. It said that American society, open in public aspects, was very much closed at individual levels because various ethnic and cultural groups retain their own customs.

"No wonder such disappointed people are brainwashed by Father Jones of the People's Temple, preaching a new world," Mainichi said.

Piece of devilry

The Zurich, Switzerland newspaper Der Blick had a banner headline that said "Jimmy Carter's Wife Supported Mad Sect."

"Only the active support of famous Americans enabled the murder sect to build up their piece of devilry," said Der Blick, which printed a translation of a letter from Mrs. Carter to Jones. "I was one of many endorsements by prominent Americans cited by Jones to promote his cult. Some of the persons named have said that they do not recall the statements attributed to them."

Mrs. Carter said Tuesday that she met Mr. Jones during her husband's presidential campaign and wrote to him on White House stationery.

Mayor wants unclaimed bodies cremated

Continued from Page One

Dover, the expense of interment or transportation to the West Coast. The burial at sea would also allay persisting local concern about disease or environmental contamination by the bodies.

Legates said he had received many calls from residents concerned about possible health risks from the corpses which continue to decay at the air base while the time-consuming task of identification continues.

"I am satisfied that there is no cause for health concerns," said Legates. It is the possibility that the cult, whose leader led 912 followers to their deaths, could be revived and those who died may in future be considered "some kind of martyrs" and the burial ground a focus of pilgrimages that has him worried. Legates said he would not oppose the burial of bodies at scattered locations throughout the state.

Yesterday, the state attorney general's office said Delaware cannot handle autopsies for the 912 victims brought to the air base, even though many autopsies may be required.

"Delaware is just too small a state, and we're not geared to doing 900 autopsies in three weeks," said Deputy Attorney General Edward F. Kafader. He said he doubts Delaware does 900 autopsies a year.

Kafader met in Wilmington with federal and state officials yesterday to discuss legal problems in handling the bodies, but he said nothing was decided at the meeting.

Kafader said, "The law requires that, before a body can be transported out of the state of Delaware, it must be accompanied by a death certificate filled out as best it can be under the circum-

stances. In this case, I don't think the cause of death will be indicated."

Determining the cause of death is the only reason Delaware would want autopsies, he said. Other states accepting the bodies for burial may want autopsies, and relatives may need autopsies to settle life insurance policies, but Kafader said, "that's not really our problem now."

He said the federal government does not have jurisdiction to do autopsies either.

"Quite possibly it will create a lot of legal problems," Kafader conceded, particularly with life insurance policies that do not pay in cases of suicide. Various reports of the death scene Nov. 18 in Jonestown, Guyana, indicate that many of the victims were forced to drink cyanide when they refused the Rev. Jim Jones' order to commit suicide.

Meanwhile, experts in Dover positively identified four more bodies yesterday, bringing the total identified to 44. A total of 178 bodies had been embalmed, and 886 had been fingerprinted.

Legates said Dover and the rest of the state became involved in the "unfortunate aftermath" of the Guyana tragedy, not through any connection with the Peoples Temple, but because of the coincidental location of the air base.

A former fire chief at the base and a specialist in aircraft rescue, Legates praised the Air Force and the way it has conducted the airlift. It's also not the fault of the Air Force that it was drawn into the State Department's "humanitarian operation," added Legates.

Local funeral directors are now being drawn into the operation as families of victims begin inquiring about arrangements and transportation.

The entire embalming operation is under the direction of Earl Ford, the Wilmington mortician who holds the base contract.

Eight local area funeral homes will probably be involved "as we were in the Tenerife air disaster," explained one director. They will pick up the already casketed bodies at the base and arrange cremation or transportation at the direction of next of kin.

About a dozen calls had been received by Dover morticians by last night and the State Department was referring calls as bodies were identified and claimed.

"The calls are just now starting to trickle in," said William C. Torbert. "But it will be a long drawn out operation," the funeral director added.

He estimated "500 or more" bodies may be left unidentified or unclaimed at the end of the opera-

tion. He suggested that "since these people died together," it would be fitting if they are put to final rest together — whether at sea as Legates suggested or in a common burial ground in Kent County.

There are two sites, Sharon Hills on the Dover Hartly Road and the recently-enlarged Oddfellows Cemetery in Camden, that could accommodate a massive burial, Torbert said.

A common grave could be excavated, the caskets placed in rows of individual concrete vaults required in all cemeteries, and then covered over, he suggested. The least expensive method of final disposition, however, would be cremation, he added.

Torbert said he planned to pick up the proposal and Sen. Joseph R. Sessle, D-Del., at

Legates: Dover won't become a cult mecca

By JANE BROOKS
Dover Bureau

DOVER — Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr. does not want his city turned into a "shrine" which would attract members of the Peoples Temple cult on anniversaries of the Guyana massacre.

Legates said he opposed a proposal for mass burial of what may be several hundred unclaimed bodies here because "I think this would inundate Dover with people who are not quite — if you will excuse the expression — all there."

The mayor, who said he has made his feelings known to the

U.S. State Department and the Air Force, suggested instead that "after a respectable time" the unidentified and unclaimed bodies be cremated and the ashes scattered at sea — "beyond the continental limits of the United States."

The ashes could be put back aboard one of the C-141 Starlifters which brought the bodies to Dover Air Force Base, carried to sea and released with a "very compassionate ceremony."

His plan, said Legates, would solve a lot of problems — the possibility of a mass burial site in

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prepares itself for a grim task

By Linda S. Henskowitz
—Staff Writer—

DOVER, Del.—Usually, Col. Paul H. Wragg, chief of chaplains at the Dover Air Force Base, would have spent the day before Thanksgiving in quiet, pleasant anticipation of a day with his children in Hatfield, Pa.

Instead, he was on the phone, trying to find information about the People's Temple, a cult that he and most other Americans had never heard of before last weekend. Nor, it seems, had the Army chaplain who had published the "Handbook on Religious Sects," a catalogue of every cult in which active military personnel are known to participate.

Col. Wragg and his six assistant chaplains will miss the day with their families to take turns assisting anyone coming to the base to meet the bodies of the more than 400 Americans, members of the People's Temple cult, who took their lives in a mass suicide in Guyana Saturday.

Because he has been unable to find information about the cult from other sources, Col. Wragg is depending on newspapers and magazines.

The chaplains are among hundreds of military personnel who will spend Thanksgiving engaged in grim tasks related to the return of the bodies of the cultists. The first of the C-141 transport planes sent to Guyana from McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey are scheduled to return here today, one every six hours, according to a base spokesman.

This is a way station for the dead. Bodies of military personnel are routinely routed here from as far away as the Mideast, to be prepared for shipment to their homes. The volume has gone down in recent years, but during the Vietnam War, bodies were unloaded—and "processed," as they call it—with mechanical regularity.

On April 3, 1977, the human wreckage from the world's worst aircraft disaster was brought here, following the collision of a Pan American 742 and a KLM 747 at Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the Canary Islands.

At that time, Col. Wragg and his associates prepared themselves to comfort the families who might come to meet the planes. Few families came.

There were only a few families from Philadelphia, and they did not ask to see the chaplains. Still, Col. Wragg wants to be ready.

There's a lot of difference between this and the disaster at Tenerife," Col. Wragg said, drawing deeply on his pipe, as he sat in his office at the base chapel. "The airplane thing was, well, you hate to say this, but it was a simple thing, an accident. This has many implications."

He turned to the editorial page in a local paper, to a line that had caught his eye that morning: "The mesmerizing effect (the Rev. Jim) Jones had on those who joined his group speaks of a yearning for longing, for salvation," he read aloud. "Everyone wants to have meaning in their lives," he said.

While the chaplain readied himself in his office, the base's public information officers prepared for the influx of television and newspaper reporters and photographers. The office

had been besieged with calls from news organizations around the country, but the servicemen there had to wait for orders from above.

While the news services carried stories about the shipments of the bodies to Dover, the public information officers reiterated that it was "only rumor, not fact."

Yesterday, Maj. Robert Groom was appealing to his superiors at Scott Air Force base in Illinois for more information to hand out to reporters.

But for most people on the base, the operation went unnoticed.

Just knowing how it was with Tenerife, the only people really involved will be those on the flight line, who assist in the unloading and processing of bodies," the chaplain said.

So, while most of the 5,200 military personnel and their 8,000 dependents spend Thanksgiving quietly, the unloading will be done by people whose holiday will be confined to a brief meal in the base dining room.

Could the U.S. have stepped in at Jonestown?

By WALTER R. MEARS
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the hideous aftermath of Jonestown, the government is being criticized because it did not, somehow, act to prevent the mass suicide and murder of 912 Americans in the jungle of Guyana.

But no one has suggested what the government should or could have done to rescue disenchanted cultists or to save the others who died with the Rev. Jim Jones.

Perhaps congressional investigators can come up with answers when they look into the life and death of Jonestown early next year, and consider the State Department's response to early warnings that something was gravely wrong there.

But it is hard to frame a government response without suggesting that the government assume awesome powers over the lives and conduct of American citizens. For the freedom to choose and to travel includes the freedom to do so unwisely, even to the point of following a Jones into an alien jungle.

The State Department did try to find out whether Jones really was mistreating his followers and holding captive those who wanted to go home.

Richard McCoy, a U.S. embassy official, conducted between 40 to 50 interviews with Jonestown residents in an open field, where Jones and his cult leaders could not eavesdrop.

The people interviewed were those whose families had complained that they were being abused or imprisoned, according to the State

Department. McCoy said he told each of them that a car was waiting to take them from the place if they chose to go.

None did.

Deborah Layton Blakey, who had fled Jonestown, said in a sworn statement sent to the department nearly six months ago that the people who were interviewed feared for their lives.

The members appear to speak freely to American representatives, but in fact they are drilled thoroughly prior to each visit on what

Washington today

questions to expect and how to respond," she said. That apparently was so.

But it is hard to see how the government could have acted as some sort of master deprogrammer for the Jones cultists.

American parents have had trouble reclaiming their own children from cults within the United States. To suggest that a diplomat could do so with a stranger in a foreign jungle clearing is to set the government an impossible task.

Mrs. Blakey's affidavit continued:

"On behalf of the people of Jonestown, I urge that the United States government take adequate steps to safeguard their rights. I believe that their lives are in danger."

She was right. But again, the question is what steps would have been adequate — or possible.

The United States could have pressed the government of Guyana to intercede at Jonestown. That would have stirred a storm of protest among civil libertarians. After all, the government had not been able to substantiate the complaints it received about Jones.

In any event, the evidence now is that Jones had his followers rehearsing suicide against just such a possibility.

The dilemma was not reserved for the State Department. The Justice Department had rejected congressional requests for investigation of alleged brainwashing and physical abuse in religious cults, saying it lacked legal authority to act.

One of those requests came from Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., whose murder by Peoples Temple zealots preceded the suicides at Jonestown.

The department held that allegations of brainwashing or other thought control techniques would not suffice to prosecute cultists as kidnappers. In addition, Benjamin Civiletti, then chief of the criminal division, said an investigation of the cults could infringe on constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion.

In the end, the Social Security Administration came closer than any other federal agency to finding a government path into Jonestown. On Oct. 18, Social Security officials said they weren't satisfied that the checks going to about 200 residents of the colony were being cashed and given to the cult without duress. They asked the State Department for further investigation.

But Jones' white night of suicide came first.

State Dept.: No Mass Cult Burial in Delaware

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — U.S. State Department officials have agreed there will be no mass burial in Delaware of unclaimed corpses from the Nov. 18 Guyana cult deaths.

However, they did not rule out the possibility of burying or cremating unclaimed bodies here on an individual basis.

Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV and his aides won assurances from State Department lawyers Wednesday that a mass grave was

not being considered. "I don't think we ever had specific plans for a mass burial," said Bruce E. Dozier, a State Department spokesman.

A total of 911 bodies are being identified and embalmed at the Dover Air Force Base military morgue, but no plans have been made for remains which may go unclaimed and unidentified.

The government is paying \$413 for the embalming and casketing

of each adult and \$232 for each child under three feet tall, but the families of the dead must pay for transportation from the base and for burial.

Local funeral homes are receiving calls from next of kin of the victims already identified. In many cases, the bodies will be transported to Philadelphia International Airport for shipping to the family's home state.

None of the bodies has left the

base yet, although 540 were embalmed by yesterday and 60 were identified.

David S. Swayze, the governor's counsel, said none can be moved or buried without state approval. He said state health officials will make no decisions until the State Department documents its plans and the legal issues are clarified.

There is a very serious legal question about burial of any bodies in Delaware without a

certification of the cause of death," Swayze said. Exact causes of the 911 deaths have not been determined.

Anxious residents have phoned the governor, local officials and a radio talk show complaining the bodies of the Jonestown victims should not be buried in Delaware.

Dover Mayor Charles A. LeGates Jr. was the first to speak out this week, saying he doesn't want his city turned into a "shrine" that

might attract Peoples Temple cultists on anniversaries of the massacre.

The governor and state legislators have opposed any mass burial scheme.

Delaware Sen. William V. Roth Jr. joined the opposition yesterday, saying federal authorities should try to recover the morgue costs from the Peoples Temple coffers, the members' surviving kin, "or other parties."

Embalming of Cult's Dead Continues Despite Stench

By KATHY CANAVAN

The stench in the base mortuary holding the first 17 bodies from the Jonestown mass murder-suicide is so strong the Air Force is warning visitors it causes diarrhea and headaches.

A security guard, who had to choose between keeping warm or breathing, was standing inside the body-filled base mortuary with his head sticking out the door.

The odor, which one visitor described as the most awful smell he ever experienced, is noticeable 50 yards outside the door. "It grabs your stomach and turns it," he said.

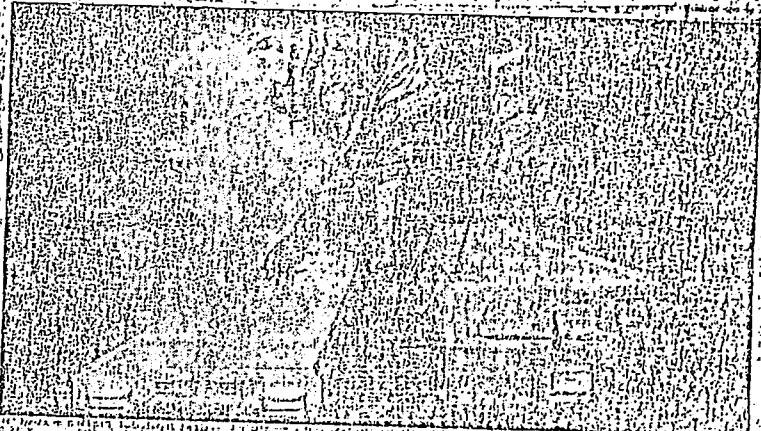
State health officials have issued annual mortuary contract, off- assurances the corpses would cause no health problems for Dover residents, but a local radio talk show was flooded with calls yesterday from listeners who questioned whether the bodies carried diseases that could infect workers, contaminate the base water supply or even the cemeteries where the Jonestown victims are laid to rest.

Despite all this, several local funeral directors say they are willing to take on some of the lucrative embalming work if Wilmington undertaker Earl Ford calls them in to help.

As low bidder for the air base's

annual mortuary contract, officials say Ford automatically has the right to embalm all 912 bodies at approximately \$500 each. Ford, who was denied membership in the fraternal State Funeral Directors Association, reportedly brought in a "limousine" full of Pennsylvania morticians to help his own staff embalm the first bodies as they were identified this week.

Ford, reached last night at the base mortuary, would not comment on that report. A mortician who works for him said, "He has a full complement at the moment."



Decontaminators at work at Dover AFB. Staff Photo by Kevin Fleming

See IDENTIFYING - Page 3, Col. 1

Identifying Victims Is Slow Task

Continued from Page One

Several local funeral directors, however, said they had good working relationships with Ford and expected he would call them in when FBI and military experts start identifying larger numbers of victims and turning them over for embalming.

Maj. Brigham Shuler, a Pentagon spokesman, emphasized Ford's \$500-per-body contract involves embalming only.

"It will be up to the individual families to decide whether Mr. Ford will handle the funeral arrangements or not," Shuler said.

"In fact, Mr. Ford may not want to handle the funeral arrangements. He may consider it a conflict of interest. He may think some people will say he's got the whole 912 bodies and he's holding on to them. Mr. Ford is a very ethical, very honest man."

Maj. Robert Groom, the base spokesman, said FBI technicians are identifying the bodies slowly from fingerprints and X-rays. They have positively identified cult leader Jim Jones and 39 of his faithful.

Groom said none of the victims' relatives have responded to a State Department request to mail pictures and dental records to Dover.

The identification process is so difficult authorities say it will be tomorrow or Thursday before they even estimate how long the operation will take.

When 328 of the casualties from the Canary Islands crash of a Pan Am superjet and a giant KLM airliner were flown to Dover for processing in 1977, it took 22 people 15 nine-hour days for the embalming

process alone.

Shuler, the Pentagon spokesman, said the State Department will buy "good coffins" for the bodies before they are turned over to relatives. He said the relatives must pay licensed morticians to move the bodies from the air base and bury them.

A state department official said the Guyanese government will have to issue death certificates before the State Department will prepare its report of death of Americans overseas. A death certificate usually is needed before a body can be buried or cremated, but a blanket exemption was given for the victims of the 1977 Canary Islands air disaster.

While the identification is continuing, state officials are mulling over legal problems concerning transferring and cremating the corpses.

Dover officials have performed no autopsies on Jones or his fol-

lowers although experts say without autopsies legal problems will arise when survivors try to prove the causes of death for insurance purposes. Some policies do not pay in suicide cases, for example, and others pay double in cases of murder.

Dr. Ali Hameli, the state medical examiner, said death certificates will be needed before the bodies can be transported across the Delaware state lines for burial. If the bodies are flown directly from the federal air base to another state, jurisdiction would pass to officials in that state.

Hameli said he has the power to perform autopsies and investigate deaths without the next of kin's consent if murder, suicide or public interest is involved. He said he is prepared to do autopsies on Jones and the other victims if plans are made to cremate or bury their bodies in Delaware.

American charged in cult killings

(Continued from Page One)

paper said its information about the witness came from investigators. The newspaper did not name the witness, who it said is now in San Francisco.

The account said that those who fired their guns, according to the San Francisco district attorney's office, were Bob Kice, Tom Kice, and Joe Wilson. The four others seen carrying weapons were Albert Touchette, Ronnie James, Eddie Crenshaw and Ron Talley.

The next hearing for Leyton will be Jan. 15 at Mathews Ridge, the court nearest to where the killings took place. Police said yesterday's hearing was held in Georgetown for security reasons.

The suspect will learn then if he is charged with first-degree murder or a lesser degree of homicide. First-degree murder in Guyana is punishable by hanging.

Military officials here said Leyton, from San Francisco, was arrested near the airstrip shortly after the Saturday killings were reported. Two other Americans arrested after the murders and suicides, Michael Prokes, 31, Stockton, Calif., and Tim Carter, 30, Garden City, Idaho, did not appear in court yesterday. Leyton also was charged with the attempted murder of Dale Park, Monica Bagby and Verne Gosney, believed to be members of the Peoples Temple cult.

Judge William Alexander asked Leyton if he had a lawyer. "I would like to," Leyton said in his only official utterance of the brief hearing. "One will be provided, I suppose," Alexander answered.

The FBI and Guyanese government investigators probed deeper into the killings and suicides. The FBI, acting under a law making the assassination of a congressman a crime, sent one agent to Guyana and has five or six more waiting in Miami for permission from Guyana to enter. A copy-righted story in the San Francisco Examiner by City Editor Jim Willse said the followers of Jones have been drugged when they followed his order to line up for cups of cyanide-laced fruit drink.

He said empty bottles that had contained "massive amounts" of narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs were found near where Jones led followers flock to their deaths.

Dr. Lynn Crook, a South Carolina pathologist overseeing the carrying for the dead, was quoted as saying: "They had stores of narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs. It was a total and complete pharmacy, much more than was needed to supply a community of that size, or even the city of Georgetown (population 66,000)."

The population of the settlement is uncertain, but most estimates put it at near 1,100. Hundreds are

thought to have fled into the jungle rather than commit suicide. So far 72 have been found alive, the State Department said yesterday in Washington.

Defectors from the Peoples Temple say Jones' "hit squads" are scattered around the United States with instructions to murder those who left the cult.

In San Francisco, the headquarters of the cult, the FBI confirmed it was investigating rumors that Peoples Temple members in California were planning to kidnap or kill high-ranking American officials to avenge Jones, who died with his followers. Jones died of a gunshot wound to the head, not from poison.

Cult member charged with jungle killings

By MARTIN MERZER

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A barefoot and handcuffed cultist arrested after the jungle slayings of U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four other Americans, was charged with murder yesterday in Magistrate's Court here. Bail was refused and no pleas were taken.

Larry Leyton, 32, one of three Americans under arrest, was escorted through a throng of about 1,000 into the crowded courtroom to hear the charges against him. His blue eyes darted nervously from side to side. A large fan rotated lazily overhead, pushing the hot, humid air around the faded red and yellow courtroom.

The killings on the jungle airstrip at Port Kaituma, 154 miles northwest of here, triggered a suicidal frenzy at the cultists' community of Jonestown, leaving 405 dead.

Two U.S. Air Force HH-3 helicopters brought the first 60 bodies from Jonestown to Georgetown last night. The operation to bring out the rest of the bodies will continue today, an Air Force officer said.

The helicopters landed after dark in an isolated area of the international airport here and forklift trucks trundled forward, their lights illuminating the scene. The officer said the bags containing the bodies would be put into aluminum caskets and placed aboard a C-141 transport plane for the trip to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

In addition to charges he killed Ryan, Leyton is accused of murdering Gregory Robinson, a photographer for the San Francisco Examiner; Robert Brown, a cameraman for NBC News; Don Harris, an NBC correspondent and Patricia Parks, a Jonestown resident who was trying to leave with Ryan.

The newsmen and others had accompanied Ryan to the settlement. Ryan, a California Democrat, was investigating alleged abuses of cult members by their leader, Jim Jones.

In California, the San Francisco Examiner reported, a witness named seven temple members as being in the ambush team that performed the killings. The news-

See AMERICAN—Page 7, Col. 1

Unmarked grave cremation seen for cult bodies

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AP) — Anonymous graves or cremation may await many of the 912 Americans who died at the Rev. Jim Jones' settlement in Guyana, government officials say.

The Air Force finished bringing all the decomposed bodies back to their homeland Sunday, but after four days of work, the FBI and military experts had positively identified only 25 of the 912 bodies they had fingerprinted.

Meanwhile, a Delaware health official appeared at a Sunday press conference at Dover Air Force Base to assure the public that the bodies do not present a health hazard to Kent County.

The idea of having hundreds of dead bodies in Dover "may be repugnant to some, but it doesn't represent a health hazard," Dr. Ernest V. Tierkel said.

Tierkel, Delaware's top disease control officer, said he inspected the base mortuary and made his announcement because his office had received some telephone calls from citizens worrying about possible health problems.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Jeff Deterloh said the government has not decided whether to cremate unclaimed bodies, but he added, "Eventually, if a large number of unclaimed bodies remain in Dover, it may well be we will be forced to consider that possibility."

This Air Force base, site of the largest mortuary on the East Coast, does not have a crematorium.

The body of Jones, the leader of the Peoples Temple, who led his followers into a grisly, suicidal death at the cult's commune in Guyana, was one of the first identified by FBI fingerprint experts.

In Richmond, Ind., a funeral director said Jones' in-laws wanted his body cremated along with his wife and two of their children and their ashes scattered into the Atlantic Ocean.

The State Department said no ar-

rangements had been made for disposing of Jones' body.

Meanwhile, the FBI said it planned to closely examine today a letter that an airman found on Jones' body here Friday.

FBI spokesman Tom Coll said agents already had read the letter, but were not yet certain the handwriting was that of Jones. He refused to divulge the contents.

A 35-man team of forensic pathologists, dentists and radiologists joined the 18 FBI agents here Sunday in an attempt to identify bodies through medical and dental records, surgical scars and similar clues.

The estimated 260 children who swallowed or were fed a poisoned drink at the Jonestown settlement on Nov. 18 will be the hardest to identify, the experts agreed.

It took nine flights and three days to complete the airlift of 912 bodies aboard C-141 cargo planes. On the last three flights, some caskets bore the bodies of two or more children.

A Pentagon press attache, Army Maj. Brigham Shuler, said the task of identifying, cleaning and embalming the cadavers may last a month or more.

One mortuary worker said the bodies, which baked in the tropical heat for

See CREMATION—page 2

Note by Jones is kept secret

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — A sealed note, found by an airman on the body of cult leader the Rev. Jim Jones, was expected to be examined today by the FBI, an agent said.

The note has been read by agents, but its contents will be kept secret for a while, said FBI spokesman Tom Coll, explaining it may eventually be used for evidence.

"We have not established as yet that it is in his handwriting. We have not said it was a suicide note," Coll said.

Before examining the note — which had apparently been on Jones' body for six days — further, the FBI was disinfecting it in a laboratory.

The corpse of the 47-year-old cult leader, who died with more than 900 followers in a mass suicide-murder ritual in Guyana on Nov. 18, was among the first flown to a mortuary on this Air Force base Thursday.

FBI agents positively identified Jones by his fingerprints Thursday night, but the letter was not discovered until Friday, Coll said. He said FBI officials read the note Friday night. He said it was believed the airman had not

Cremation may be considered

Continued from page 1

nearly a week, were so decayed that only the morticians could tell their gender.

"It's just an unintelligible mess," said Airman Curtis Bongavoglia, of Miller Place, N.Y. "You can't tell white or black. You can't tell the facial features at all."

Bongavoglia, a jet mechanic who volunteered to work in the mortuary on Thanksgiving, gave this description of how he braced himself to opening the stench-filled caskets and body bags:

"You just have to psyche yourself into not thinking about it as a person, but just as something that's broken down. If you start thinking about it as a person, you get yourself mentally involved and that's no good."

Prayers were offered at the base

chapels Sunday for the dead cult members. At Catholic masses, a prayer also was read for "ourselves, a prayer may neither minimize this loss nor brood over it, so that it may not overwhelm us or isolate us from others."

A makeshift reception center for victims' relatives at a base golf course was closed Sunday. Only a handful of relatives came here. None was allowed to view any bodies.

A Delaware health official, Dr. Ernest S. Tierkel, toured the mortuary Sunday and said there was no danger of any diseases spreading from the bodies.

Most were stacked in refrigerated vans parked behind the mortuary, built in 1965 for Vietnam War casualties. Others were still in aluminum cases and coffins out in hangars and a storage shed.



Grover Davis, 79, is embraced by a member of the U.S. Embassy staff in Georgetown, Guyana, yesterday before he returned to the United States (AP).

7 who escaped suicide in cult ritual return to U.S.

By RICHARD T. PIENCIAK

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven elderly, penniless members of the depleted Peoples Temple cult, said to be "scared" and "not feeling well," returned to the United States from Guyana on yesterday. After being questioned for 90 minutes by government officials aboard the Pan American World Airways jet that brought them back, the survivors — three in wheelchairs, the others walking — headed for an airport bus and connecting flights to California.

Only two of the seven actually were at Jonestown last week when Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others were killed on an airstrip and more than 900 followers of the Rev. Jim Jones died in a mass suicide-murder.

Regular passengers aboard the flight from Tienhri to Kennedy International Airport here were allowed to disembark first, then the plane was boarded by questioners from the FBI, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S. Customs, Immigra-

tion and the Secret Service.

A doctor and nurse also were allowed aboard the plane to examine the elderly survivors because, according to a Pan-Am official who asked not to be identified, "They're not feeling well."

Asked how she felt, Hyacinth Thrash, 76, said she was "OK." Grover Davis, 79, told a reporter, "I feel fine, son."

The Pan-Am official said the group had said they were "scared of the crowd" of reporters and cameramen that awaited their arrival.

One other survivor, 84-year-old Miguel DePina, arrived in this country last Sunday.

"I'm just taking one step at a time," said cult member Raymond Godshalk, 62, of Los Angeles, before leaving Guyana. "I need a few days to think things over. I lost my companion of 38 years. Her name is Vicia. She's my wife. Naturally, I felt quite badly about it, but you can't cry over spilled milk."

Guyanese authorities said the other 72 survivors of the Jones-

town tragedy would not be released until it is certain they are not material witnesses or suspects in the murders of Ryan, other members of his party and cultists in Georgetown. Two survivors already are being held in connection with the Ryan killings.

In Dover, Del., meanwhile, where the Americans killed in Guyana were taken, the body count was revised from 912 to 911. Air Force Major Robert Groom said 911 had been fingerprinted, and he said the FBI, the State Department and the Defense Department agreed that 911 was the total. The mistake apparently occurred in Guyana, Groom said.

The six on the plane with Godshalk were identified as Miss Thrash, who missed the mass poisoning because she was asleep; Davis, who hid in a ditch; Alvaray Satterwhite, 61; Marian Campbell, 61; Madeline Brooks, 73, and Carol Young, 78. Miss Thrash and Miss Brooks are from San Francisco and Davis said he was from Los Angeles. The hometowns of the others could not be learned.

Legislator wants bodies out of Del.

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — state Rep. Michael J. Harrington, R-Dover, reacting to calls from constituents, yesterday urged the removal of Peoples Temple victims from Dover to California.

"We cannot allow outside influences to dictate that Delaware should bear the full impact of this unfortunate incident," Harrington wrote state and federal officials.

He suggested that regular military flights to the West Coast could transport the bodies at little cost to taxpayers.

Harrington fears many bodies

will go unclaimed and says the impact of mass burial would be "far less in a state the size of California," where most of the victims lived before going to Guyana.

The body count was revised yesterday from 912 to 911. Air Force Major Robert Groom said 911 had been fingerprinted, and he said the FBI, the State Department and the Defense Department agreed that 911 was the total. The mistake, apparently, occurred in Guyana, Groom said.

Dover Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr. also has expressed opposition to a mass burial in Dela-

ware, saying he doesn't want his city turned into a "shrine" for Peoples Temple sympathizers.

Local funeral homes are still getting calls from survivors. The homes are telling callers they must request the bodies by telegram, listing the deceased's full name, the name and relationship of person requesting the body, and the funeral director to receive the body on the other end. Families must first be registered with the State Department.

The cost of transporting a body to the Philadelphia Airport is about \$100. Cremation can be done in Delaware for \$160 to \$150.

THE CHRONICLE

MILFORD, D.



PERSONNEL AT THE DOVER AIR FORCE BASE had the gruesome task of processing the victims of last week's Guyana horror. (Staff photo by Gwen Guerke).

Guyana

(Continued from page 1)
expense, Shuler commented.
While the horror in Guyana is over, the aftermath will continue at the Dover Air Force Base with teams and volunteers continuing their grueling work for what officials estimate to be a possible three weeks.

National Tragedy Hits Close to Home

INFORMATION
BLCG 200
DOVER AIR
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A team consisting of approximately 40 military and civilian morticians, pathologists, and FBI specialists are working around the clock at the Dover Air Force Base in an effort to identify the 912 bodies that were victims of mass suicide in Guyana. They are being assisted in the process by Dover Air Force volunteers. According to Public Affairs Officer Paul L. Lardizzone, as of Tuesday night, 70 bodies had been examined and x-rayed, 70 had been embalmed, 637 had been fingerprinted and 40 were positively identified, including the body of the group's leader, Jim Jones.

The dead were members of the People's Temple, a religious organization that arose in California and later transferred their camp to Jonestown, Guyana. After receiving numerous suspicious reports about the group, recent information revealed that the weekend before Thanksgiving, an investigative trip to the camp by California Congressman Leo Ryan, some members of his staff, and a team of journalists ended in disaster. While leaving the camp with some dissenting followers, the group was allegedly ambushed and killed by People's Temple members according to recent reports.

Shortly after this occurrence, leader Jim Jones called his followers together and directed them to commit suicide by drinking a poisonous mixture of cyanide and a powdered drink mix. It was reported by surviving witnesses that most went along willingly and those who dissented were shot.

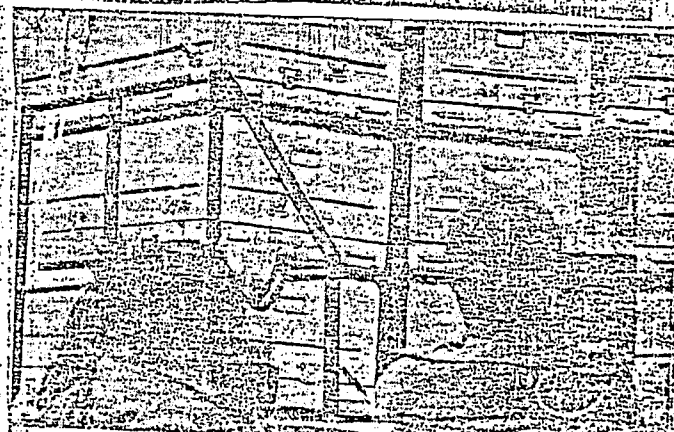
First accounts reported the number of dead to be in the area of 400, but as the evacuation process of the bodies continued, the final count rose to a shocking 912. An official from the State Department reported at the air base Saturday that the mistake was caused by the fact that many children were later found lying under larger adults. Secondly, he commented that an accurate count was not of high priority during the initial procedures. Their main concern was in evacuating and identifying that large numbers of dead bodies and in providing for potential survivors.

The Dover Air Force Base was chosen to conduct air lift removal and to receive the bodies because it was the only place with the capacity to handle large casualties, according to Pentagon spokesman, Major Brigham Schuler. The first C141 plane loaded with bodies landed in Dover early Thanksgiving morning, and the removal continued until Sunday. Schuler commented Friday that large numbers of dead

were "straining the facilities" and many refrigerated vans are being used as temporary mortuaries. He described the process as being a tedious one because of the lack of documentation of the bodies. As the process continues, a constant flow of calls from relatives are pouring into the State Department, according to Schuler. Families will have to pay to have the bodies shipped back to California. Unclaimed bodies will probably be interred in Dover at the government's expense. (Continued on page A6)



DISINFECTING THE TRANSFER CASES which brought the dead from Guyana to Dover was an unpleasant job performed by volunteers. (Staff photo by Marc Clery)



NEWS TEAMS FROM ALL THE MAJOR NETWORKS were on hand in Dover to witness the final stages of last week's tragedy in Guyana. (Staff photo by Gwen Guerke)



Special to The Inquirer / KEITH MEYERS

A CS-A from the base files past Legislative Hall

Dover, a mortuary for the unwanted

DOVER, From 1-A — To issue a statement last Thursday, promising that there would be no mass burials in Delaware. He had the U.S. State Department's word on that, du Pont said.

But still, the worries persist. State Rep. Michael J. Harrington of Dover wrote to President Carter, urging that the government return all the bodies to California, where the People's Temple cult began its ill-fated pilgrimage to Guyana.

Other Doverites had other suggestions. One gruff-voiced man, phoning in to a radio talk show, said that "instead of having all this hullabaloo," the Air Force should put the unclaimed bodies in plastic bags "and bury 'em at sea."

The people of Dover, a town of about 28,000, have seen the arrival of large numbers of bodies before. They recall the hearses carrying flag-draped caskets up U. S. 13 during the Vietnam War, when the remains of more than 21,000 soldiers passed through Dover Air Force Base.

But that was different.

"It was something that had to be done with our people, for our country, as part of the war," said Harvey Pusey, a Dover resident who used to be a civilian employee at the air base.

And when 326 bodies from an air disaster in the Canary Islands arrived here one Sunday in April 1977, the community watched quietly and expressed its sympathy for the victims.

The mortuary, a pale green building on the 3,600-acre air base outside of town, was constructed in 1969 to handle the dead returning from Southeast Asia. The bodies from Guyana are straining its capacities.

At the latest count, government specialists had identified 401 of the 911 bodies from Guyana. And even if most of the bodies finally are identified, there is no likelihood that all, or even most, of them will be claimed by relatives.

Somehow, the government will have to take care of them.

The resentment of many Doverites was echoed last week by others around the country. Some congressmen received protests that the government was spending so much money (about \$9 million, by one De-

fense Department estimate) in handling the bodies.

"They should have dug a hole in Guyana, and bulldozed the whole bunch of them in," said Rep. Larry McDonald (D., Ga.).

A Lafayette, Ind., clergyman wrote his congressman suggesting that "the People's Temple of California should have a lien put on their assets to pay the expenses."

A Dover man had a variation on this idea. He said that the cult's assets should be distributed in Delaware, "to sort of take care of the hassle that the people have been put through in the state of Delaware."

The federal government continued to be vague last week about its plans for disposing of the bodies. Meanwhile, the bodies remained the number one topic of conversation in Dover.

On "Speak Your Piece," a local talk show, radio personality Rick Gaidis urged his listeners to "call and discuss virtually any issue that may be on your mind." Almost without exception, the callers wanted to comment on the bodies from Guyana.

"They were radicals and crazies, but yet, we wouldn't want one of our own just to be forgotten," a woman caller said, charitably, before adding, "but I don't want them here."

Gaidis said that his station, WKEN, had received almost 200 calls on the subject of the bodies since Thanksgiving.

Mayor Legates has received his share of calls, too. Sitting last week in the den of his home, with the sounds of a child's piano lesson filtering in from another room, Legates said the vehemence of the community's reaction has surprised him.

"It's probably one of the first times the Canary Islands thing was the first — they've ever been hit hard by the fact that there is a mortuary out there large enough to process a quantity of bodies."

Legates, who had worked at the base as a civilian fire chief, said: "I worked out there all during the Vietnam War and never heard a glimmer from the townspeople about the bodies coming through."

"I guess the reaction in the Canary Islands thing was one of sympathy for the victims. This time there has been little sympathy."

Activity slows at base morgue

By FRANK RZYWICKI
Staff Writer

DOVER—As Delaware officials are left wondering how many Guyana victims will wind up in Delaware, things are winding down at the Dover Air Force Base morgue.

The team of doctors from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology packed up Tuesday and left for Washington, D.C.—presumably for good, Maj. Robert W. Groom, Base spokesman said.

The pathologists will continue the tedious body identification process using body photographs, X-rays, records and fingerprints, in labs at the Walter Reed Army Hospital at Washington, Groom said.

"It's just a matter of body turnover at this point," Groom said, referring to what is left to be done at the morgue. "That, and the paperwork involved."

Only minimal crews from the Base, and local morticians, are left to continue the routine of readying coffins for destinations outside Delaware.

Corpses are leaving the Base at the steady rate of about 30 a day, with a total of 236 gone by Wednesday, a Base spokesman said.

That process will slow down a little for the holidays, as Base officials announced there will be no corpses moved from the base from noon Saturday until Tuesday morning.

The same moratorium on body removal will be followed next week for New Year's weekend, Groom said.

By late Wednesday the body identification process slowed to a virtual one-day halt, as pathologists reported they did not identify a single body Wednesday.

There are still 280 corpses—mostly of children, whose dental, medical, and fingerprint records are less complete than adults'—to be identified.

The slowing identification process fans speculation by officials that there may be close to 200 bodies left unidentified.

U.S. state department lawyer Michael J. White conceded the 200 figure is "still in the ball park."

David S. Swayze, lawyer for Gov. Pierre S. du Pont, said that officials working to identify the Guyana dead had been using "the estimate of 200 to 300 unidentified bodies all along."

The Delaware congressional delegation will meet today with an official from the Consular Affairs Bureau in Washington, at the request of Rep. Thomas B. Evans, R-Del.

And Delaware officials still are

Delaware
State News
21 Dec 78

Jones' rites questioned

CLARKSBORO, N.J. (AP) — The body of cult leader Jim Jones is in ashes — but state officials say they question the legality of his cremation.

Deputy Attorney General Charles Mysak said Wednesday "serious questions" concerning the legality of the funeral rite prompted an investigation to see if the cremation was done according to state law.

Special permits or death certificates signed by the next of kin or another lawful authority are required for cremation in New Jersey, Mysak said.

But the death certificates are being completed in Guyana, and cemetery officials have said they did not know they needed a special permit and had not received one when they burned Jones' body.

Jones, who died along with more than 900 of his followers in a murder-suicide last month in Guyana, was cremated Tuesday without ceremony, at Eglinton Cemetery here. His remains were to be returned to Dover, Del., where the bodies were taken.

Autopsy Can't Verify Jones Shot Himself

From the Dover Bureau
DOVER — The Rev. Jim Jones died of a gunshot wound "consistent with suicide" according to a preliminary autopsy report released yesterday.

Of course, the Justice Department noted, the gun might have been pressed against his head by someone else.

Autopsies were performed Friday here in Dover by military specialists on the decomposed bodies of the cult leader and six followers who died in the Nov. 18 murder-suicide in the steaming jungles of Guyana.

Jonestown nurse Anne Elizabeth Moore was found to have died from a head wound caused by a "high-powered" weapon that Justice officials say may have been a rifle or large handgun. A spokesman said it wasn't known whether she took her own life or was shot by someone else.

Pathologists found no evidence of wounds on the other five bodies and are listing those deaths as "undetermined" pending laboratory reports. The reports may not be ready for four to eight weeks, Justice spokesman John K. Russell said.

The five were Maria Katsaris, Jones' mistress; Dr. Larry Schacht, the Jonestown physician who reportedly mixed the cyanide potion that killed cult members; Caroline Moore Layton, a reported member of Jones' hierarchy and believed to be Anne Moore's sister; William Richard Castillo, and Violet Dillard.

The results of Jones' autopsy will be supplied to the Guyanese government as requested, Russell said.

Jones' body, brought to Dover Air Force Base with the bodies of 912 other victims of the carnage in Guyana, was transported for cremation to a crematory in Clarkesboro, N.J., near Woodbury yesterday.

Family members had asked that Jones' ashes, along with those of his wife and other relatives who died in Jonestown, be scattered on the Atlantic Ocean, according to the Dover funeral home handling the remains.

Doris Torbert of Torbert Funeral Chapels said the request had come in a telegram followed by a

said. The funeral home is waiting for bodies of all victims from the Jones family to be cremated before disposing of the ashes.

Relatives of Jones' wife, Marcelline Baldwin Jones, had earlier said they did not want Jones' body returned to their Indiana town, where it might attract curiosity seekers.

The State Department has not yet decided how to dispose of the unclaimed bodies remaining after all possible identifications have been made. A spokesman said yesterday there are "no plans" for an airlift.

Delaware officials so far have blocked burial or cremation in the state. By yesterday afternoon, 633 victims had been identified and 209 of those had been transported out of Delaware.

Jonestown bodies taken to New Jersey

•Continued from page 1•

And Delaware's Congressional delegation is expected to meet with Barbara Watson, assistant secretary of state for the consular affairs bureau, to discuss Delaware's concern that bodies not end up in the state.

"My guess is that we're going to have at least 200 bodies on our hands when this is finished," an official working on the project who requested anonymity, said.

"Judging by how slow the identification process has gone in the last week, things seem to be tapering off," he said. Only two bodies were identified Tuesday.

Michael J. White, a U.S. state department lawyer, said that the 200 figure is "not unrealistic."

"It's quite possible, but just because there's a slow-up recently, doesn't mean there won't be a sudden resurgence," White said.

With so many bodies going to New Jersey for cremation, rumors have circulated that state department officials are looking at ultimately sending unidentified and unclaimed bodies to that state for cremation.

"I guess that's a possibility, but I don't know how willing the state depart-

ment would be to cremate unclaimed and unidentified bodies because of problems with the families," Delaware deputy attorney general Edward F. Kafader said.

White did not discount the possibility of cremation for the unidentified bodies, but said "all options are still being discussed."

"There are drawbacks to cremation, and of course, there are drawbacks to (burial) for the unidentified," he said.

Edward Minus of Minus funeral home in Dover said that he has handled 30 Guyana bodies, sending five to New Jersey for cremation.

"I took them there because that's where I deal when I cremate them anyway," Minus said.

Of the five cremations he had, all the families could not afford shipment to their home states, and requested the cheaper cremation, he said.

Faries funeral home has sent half of the 10 bodies it handled to New Jersey for cremation, a Faries spokesman said.

Ambruso funeral home has cremated three of 21 bodies in New Jersey, and Trader, four of about 15 bodies, officials at those establishments said.

Autopsy can't prove Jones killed himself

By MARK MATTHEWS
Dover Bureau

DOVER — The Justice Department yesterday stopped short of saying Guyana cult leader Jim Jones killed himself, but preliminary autopsy results state he died from a gunshot wound "consistent with suicide."

The wound was caused by a gun pressed against Jones' head, a department spokesman said. But he would not rule out the possibility that the gun was held by someone other than Jones.

Autopsies on Jones and six followers who died in the Nov. 18 murder-suicide in Guyana were performed here Friday by specialists from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Jonestown nurse Anne Elizabeth Moore was found to have died from a head wound caused by a "high-powered" weapon that Justice officials say may have been a rifle or large hand-

gun. A spokesman said it wasn't known whether she took her own life or was shot by someone else.

Pathologists found no evidence of wounds on the other five bodies and are listing those deaths as "undetermined" pending laboratory reports. The reports may not be ready for four to eight weeks, Justice spokesman John K. Russell said.

The five were Maria Katsaris, Jones' mistress; Dr. Larry Schacht, the Jonestown physician who reportedly mixed the cyanide potion that killed cult members; Caroline Moore Layton, a reported member of Jones' hierarchy and believed to be Anne Moore's sister; William Richard Castillo, and Violet Dillard.

The results of Jones' autopsy will be supplied to the Guyanese government as requested, Russell said.

Jones' body, brought to Dover

See JONES—Page 2, Col. 4

Jones —

Continued from Page One

Air Force Base with the bodies of 912 other victims of the carnage in Guyana, was transported for cremation to a southern New Jersey crematory yesterday.

Family members had asked that Jones' ashes, along with those of his wife and other relatives who died in Jonestown, be scattered on the Atlantic Ocean, according to the Dover funeral home handling the remains.

Doris Torbert of Torbert Funeral Chapels said the request had come in a telegram followed by a letter. No reason was given, she said. The funeral home is waiting for bodies of all victims from the Jones family to be cremated before disposing of the ashes.

Relatives of Jones' wife, Marceline Baldwin Jones, had earlier said they did not want Jones' body returned to their Indiana town, where it might attract curiosity seekers.

A group of Delaware officials plan to meet tomorrow with a U.S. State Department official to discuss the disposition of unclaimed bodies.

Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr., R-Del., who sought the meeting with Barbara M. Watson, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, has urged federal officials to consider airlifting the remaining bodies to California.

Aides to Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del.; Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del.; and Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV, who has also sought a military airlift, are expected to attend.

The State Department has not yet decided how to dispose of the unclaimed bodies remaining after all possible identifications have been made. A spokesman said yesterday there are "no plans" for an airlift.

Delaware officials so far have blocked burial or cremation in the state. By yesterday afternoon, 633 victims had been identified and 209 of those had been transported out of Delaware.

Delaware State News
6 Dec 78

First bodies of cultists to leave base

By FRAN KRZYWICKI
Staff Writer

DOVER—As many as 50 bodies of Guyana cult victims may leave Dover Air Force Base today bound for other states.

Technical problems with obtaining "transit permits" for shipping bodies should be resolved today, David Swayze, counsel to Gov. Pierre S. du Pont, said this morning.

Bodies ready to leave have been identified and claimed by families.

Between one and five families have already indicated they want Delaware burials or cremations, Swayze said.

Delaware officials wanted assurance in writing that the corpses were transported into the state in compliance with Delaware laws.

None of the 551 bodies identified by late Tuesday have left the Base morgue.

And Kent County officials are monitoring sewage discharge from Dover Air Force Base for the possibility of contaminants from processing the bodies.

The county has been collecting samples daily since Nov. 23, when an Air Base spokesman requested that the chlorination at the pumping station receiving Air Base effluent be increased.

The Base request was "indicative" of its concern some materials from body handling would be discharged into the sanitary waste facilities, county engineer Walter L. Fritz said.

"There is no count yet, but some relatives have indicated their intentions to seek burial in Delaware because of the cost factor involved in shipping bodies," Swayze said.

But with those bodies destined for Delaware burial or cremation, the complicated legal problem of death certificates required in Delaware interment is still not solved, Swayze said.

The Guyanese government earlier agreed to supply death certificates for all identified bodies, but then backed off when talk surfaced that Delaware officials might perform autopsies, Swayze said.

Even if Guyana does furnish death certificates, there is no guarantee the Guyana certificates would pass the muster of Delaware law, or laws in other states governing burial or cremation, or transfer of bodies, he added.

While identification of the dead was hastened last week when Guyana immigration officials sent a list of names and fingerprints of the Jonestown settlers, it has been slowed to a crawl this week as pathologists work to identify the children.

"They are having a very substantial

Were aluminum cases necessary?

Dear Mr. Flood,

In reference to your opinion column in Nov. 20th's Dover Post, MAC's decision to use the aluminum caskets instead of just using body bags was more likely to have been a necessity, than a case of showing dignity to the individual person.

Had you seen the caskets after being used, you would have seen their reasoning.

Almost all contained anywhere from a quart to a gallon or more of decaying fluids, and had a smell that even the mask worn by those cleaning them didn't help much. Could you imagine several multi-million dollar aircraft being ruined like this?

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Gardner

Editor's note: It may have

turned out that the aluminum body cases worked out better from a practical point of view, but the initial decision by MAC to use them was based on a consideration for handling the bodies with as much dignity as possible, according to a top source at MAC Headquarters, Scott AFB. Be that as it may, please accept my salute for the work you and others did.

Executive Post by Gov. Pete du Pont

No mass burial in Dove

Delaware public health officials and I met on Wednesday with U.S. State Department officials to ensure that all Delaware laws are observed in the disposition of bodies brought to Dover Air Force Base from Guyana.

Initially, agreement was reached on one important point: There will be no mass burial of bodies in Delaware. The State Department specifically

concurred, at my insistence, in this conclusion.

Delaware health officials have inspected processing at the air force base and concluded that there is no danger to the public health in the procedures now being followed at the air force base. I received assurances from U.S. government representatives that health and safety regulations will be carefully followed in identification and further

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Discussions are

to resolve these q

Dover Post, Wednesday, December 6, 1978

Bodies arrive in California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The first victims among the more than 900 who followed Rev. Jim Jones to their deaths at the Peoples Temple in Guyana have returned in aluminum coffins to California.

The coffins were encased in cardboard boxes marked "Handle with Extreme Care."

The bodies of three victims of the mass murder-suicide in Guyana were unloaded without ceremony at San Francisco International Airport Sunday.

Several onlookers stood silently as two of the coffins — the first of more than a hundred bodies expected to be flown to California over the next two weeks — were lifted onto baggage carts and then transported to a warehouse.

The bodies were identified as those of Ronald James and James Oliver Shake-Michele.

There were no family members present. The coffins were taken to a warehouse where they were picked up by a local mortuary.

A third, unidentified body arrived later in the day.

The bodies were flown in from Philadelphia after being released from Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del., where they had been sent from Guyana.

Friday, Dec. 8, 1978

Morning News, Wilmington, Del.

Autopsy to be done on Jones' body

By MARK MATTHEWS

Dover Bureau

DOVER — Permission has been granted for an autopsy on the embalmed body of People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones, the U.S. Justice Department said yesterday.

A Justice spokesman, John K. Russell, said he thought the autopsy would be performed here by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which has been working to identify the 911 bodies brought to Dover Air Force Base following the Nov. 18 mass murder-suicide.

The spokesman said he did not know if the autopsy must still be approved by the military, or when it would be performed. Justice intends to have autopsies performed on bodies of Jones, two of his key aides and four randomly selected

victims, but had only won permission for the Jones autopsy yesterday.

Russell said he thought permission was obtained from an adopted son of the cult leader, who arrived in New York last night. Two adopted sons of Jones, Jim and Tim, arrived at Kennedy International Airport Wednesday night among a group of People's Temple followers. Both sons were at the People's Temple branch in Georgetown, capital of Guyana, when the death ritual occurred 150 miles away in Jonestown.

Russell said the department hopes to confirm that Jones' death was caused by gunshots and wants to "find out as much as we can from the autopsy about his health and habits." The Jones autopsy was requested by the Guyanese

government, which is investigating the Jonestown incident.

Many of the Guyana victims died after drinking a mixture that included drugs and cyanide.

State Medical Examiner Ali Z. Hameli, asked yesterday about the success of an autopsy on an embalmed and decomposed body, said bullet wounds and other signs of trauma would be easier to detect than poisoning or the presence of drugs.

Meanwhile yesterday, Dover area funeral directors were still awaiting permission to pick up more than 100 identified and claimed bodies of Guyana victims for shipment to relatives out of state. A base spokesman said a document to be signed by local morticians still awaited state approval.

Suicide bodies leaving Dover

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AP) — Bodies of victims of the mass suicide-murder at the Peoples Temple commune in Guyana were to begin leaving Dover Air Force Base Saturday, according to base spokesmen.

Release of the bodies had been delayed while Delaware officials and representatives of the State Department ironed out problems with the legal documentation of the bodies.

Maj. Robert Groom, the base information officer, said local morticians would pick up between six and 10 bodies Saturday morning and more bodies later in the weekend.

Most of the bodies are expected to be shipped to the West Coast, the home of many commune members before they moved to the South American settlement.

William Torbert, a Dover mortician, said about 10 local funeral homes would be handling the bodies. He said some families had requested cremation.

The first of the 911 bodies of American members of the cult who died at Georgetown and Jonestown, Guyana, arrived here on Thanksgiving aboard Air Force cargo planes.

Mary Ann Bader, a State Department spokeswoman in Washington, said she expected further body shipments later in the weekend.

"The arrangements are up to the family members and private morticians. I assume that all of the bodies which have been identified — and the families notified — can be shipped," she said.

The families of 412 of the identified victims had been notified by Friday, according to the spokeswoman.



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SUNDAY

EDITION

Las Vegas
REVIEW-JOURNAL

NEVADA'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 1978

VOL. 72 NO. 240

PHONE 385-4241 50 CENTS

260 PAGES

State News, Thursday, December 7, 1978

Claimed bodies may be leaving state

DOVER—Claimed and identified bodies of Guyana massacre victims bound for burial in other states can be removed from the Dover Air Force Base today.

Clearance for the identified bodies destined for burial or cremation elsewhere was given Wednesday by Delaware officials.

Now it is up to the U.S. Department of State and Dover Air Force Base to help coordinate release of coffins claimed by families to area funeral homes.

By late this morning none of the 911 corpses, 568 of which had been identified, had left the Air Base morgue.

An opinion issued Wednesday by Delaware Attorney General Richard R. Wier Jr. was apparently all that was needed to allow claimed bodies to be removed.

The five-page opinion ruled that documents provided by the Solicitor General of Guyana "which will accompany those bodies are sufficient to

permit their removal from, or transportation through, the state of Delaware."

Delaware officials wanted assurance from the Guyana government that the bodies were brought into Delaware in compliance with Delaware law.

The opinion says nothing about disposal of unclaimed or unidentified bodies, or bodies of victims whose relatives indicate they want to bury or cremate them in Delaware.

There still remain serious legal questions regarding those bodies because of Delaware requirements that death certificates be provided for burial or cremation within the state, according to David S. Swayze, legal counsel for Gov. Pierre S. du Pont.

Several relatives have already indicated a desire to bury their dead in Delaware, Swayze said.

Copies of the statements from Guyana and the Attorney General's opinion will accompany each body shipped from Delaware, according to Robert A. Mercer, a spokesman for Wier.

Wilmington, Del., Thursday, December 7, 1978

100 Bodies at Dover Cleared for Shipment

DOVER — Local funeral directors hoped to start moving 100 bodies of Jonestown victims out of Dover Air Base today for shipment to relatives.

The state attorney general's office approved the moving yesterday after Guyanan and U.S. officials provided documents saying the 911 bodies were legally removed from the South American country following the mass suicide ordered by Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones on Nov. 18.

Area morticians said they heard about Attorney General Richard R. Wier Jr.'s opinion but they were still awaiting instructions from the air base before they picked up the bodies of about 100 victims whose relatives have hired them to ship the dead to their states.

However, Lt. Joseph Saxon, a base spokesman, said he had had no word on when the bodies would be removed. The matter rests with the morticians and the victims' families, he said.

Area morticians have turned in telegrams from families authorizing them to move about 100 of the 568 identified bodies. There are still 343 bodies to identify, mostly those of children whose fingerprints were not on file.

The attorney general's office made no decision on the disposition of unclaimed or unidentified bodies or bodies relatives wish to have buried or cremated in Delaware.

Local and state officials have opposed any Delaware burials. U.S. State Department officials guaranteed only that there will be no mass burial here.

A salute to the men and

By FRANK ZYWICKI
Staff Writer

"To all the men and women of Dover Air Force Base," began the letter posted on the bulletin board inside the DAFB morgue.

"I want to thank all of you men and women who are part of the mission assigned to bring home bodies in Guyana.

"When I first heard of it my heart and thoughts went to those who would have to go there.

"400, and now we find 900 of our people went astray, and like lost sheep are being brought back home.

"Because America believes in the honor of life, our dead are loved too. We honor our dead because we honor life.

"For all our nation I thank you. For you are doing for us, what we cannot do for ourselves. Your mission is our pride to the world, that America in shame and humility stands great among all nations."



□ □ □

AND THERE'S MORE. The letter ends with a sort of a poem:

Ed-cetera

"Shame, humility and dignity standing together.
900 were led astray, 900 are being brought home,
To every man who stepped off the plane,
To every man who saw the horrors,
To every man who went therein,
To every man who gathered a body,
To every man who helped ship it home,
I thank you."

The letter was signed simply, "Coral D. Houston, Texas."

□ □ □

GIST NOT MISSED Mrs. Coral D. did not mention the crews from McGuire Air Force Base and Charleston, S.C. who flew the C-141s that lifted bodies out of Guyana. (She apparently assumed DAFB was in-charge of the flying as well as the body processing part of the massive mission.)

But the thoughts and emotions expressed by Mrs. D. come through loud and clear.

Her letter made me think of the impact of this incident on the people across this country who daily see the events of this bizarre tale unfold before them in papers and on TV screens.

News has to be one of the things in this world with the

The Morning News

A Gannett newspaper, Wilmington, Del., Thursday, December 7, 1978

Vol. 196, No. 108 • • 20 cents

Dover allowed to ship bodies

The state Attorney General's office yesterday ruled that relatives of the Guyana massacre victims can have the bodies removed from Dover Air Force Base for burial elsewhere.

State law prohibits the removal of bodies from the state without permission of local health officials, but Assistant Attorney General Edward F. Kafader found that federal documents can supplant that requirement.

The documents which must accompany each body in ship-

ment, were prepared by the Solicitor General of Guyana and validated by the U.S. Justice Department. They verify that the bodies were legally removed from Guyanese jurisdiction.

David S. Swayze, legal counsel to Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV, said he expected funeral directors who have been contacted by relatives to begin transporting the bodies from Dover today.

The ruling yesterday made no mention of how to legally dispose of bodies that may remain unidentified or unclaimed.

From Delaware AFB

Sunday, December 10, 1978

LAS VEGAS SUN - 13

9 Cultists' Bodies Moved

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (UPI) — The first nine of the 911 bodies of the people who died in the Peoples Temple suicide-murder in Guyana were transferred from Delaware Saturday, an Air Force spokesman said.

Mai Robe Groom said, "The mortician came on the base, filled out the necessary paperwork . . . put the bodies in hearses and left the base."

Groom said the body of the Rev. Jim Jones, the cult leader, was not among the first bodies claimed.

More bodies were expected to be removed Sunday.

Officials refused to identify the bodies or their destination.

cleared Friday by the State Department and Delaware officials. Dover area morticians were notified to begin picking up some of the bodies shortly before noon.

By early Saturday, 592 bodies had been identified by military pathologists and FBI fingerprint experts.

State Department officials have instructed relatives to send a telegram to a Delaware mortician to authorize release of a body. The mortician must

have the telegram before base officials will release a body from the base mortuary.

Groom said the pathologists, who have been working since late November to identify the victims, will take a weekend rest and the number of identified bodies will not be updated until Monday.

State Department officials have emphasized that relatives must arrange and pay for commercial transportation of the bodies.

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er 7, 1973 — 6

women of the Air Force—

shortest lifespan. What was on yesterday's front page is buried in today's paper, and tomorrow will disappear from print completely.

But not Guyana. This story has outlasted the shock of the sudden death of Pope John Paul I and the startling election of Polish Pope John Paul II.

As someone quipped recently, "if some movie producers made the whole thing up to sell as a disaster movie, nonewould have believed it."

□ □ □
LIGHTER SIDE Yes, Guyana, there is a lighter side.

A good *Falcon* reporter who checks the DAFB public information office regularly for Air Force News Service releases, came into the *State News* newsroom with two "flashes."

The hot releases just came over the wire from the AFNS, the official mouthpiece of the USAF, the reporter announced.

One release, dated Nov. 21, reported that the Air Force has been sent to South America to assist Guyanese officials.

The second, dated Nov. 22, named DAFB as the location the bodies were to be shipped.

Orange you glad you don't have to wait for the AFNS official bullitens to read about what's going on in our fair capital?

□ □ □
BAGGETT Rumor has it that a young woman

working the detail to dump empty body bags in the Air Base hospital incinerator had a bad run-in with a body bag recently.

As she was lifting the bag to hurl it into the fire, the bag suddenly burst—all down the front of her uniform.

The bag had been disinfected but once contained all sorts of little creepy, crawly things.

The quick-witted woman tore off her uniform and burned that in the incinerator too, and then grabbed a pair of hospital whites.

□ □ □

opinion

The Morning News, Wilmington, Del., Friday, December 1, 1978 • •

Page 14

Spare Dover this role

Dover's mayor is right. His small city should not be burdened with being the permanent resting place of the victims of the Jonestown horror.

Discounting any environmental problems — which we do — it is still too much to ask this relatively small community to provide for the burial of these unfortunate people, with the possibility that their graves will become some sort of monument which would attract members of their cult, or the just plain curious.

It is accidental that Dover Air Force Base became port of entry for the more than 900 bodies from Guyana. The base has been a major eastern facility of the Military Air Transport Service (Military Airlift Command). MATS displayed its versatility by assuming among its other duties the return of the bodies of American servicemen killed in Vietnam. The Dover base had mortuary facilities, therefore, but even those facilities were strained by the need to accept and process 900 bodies in a few days.

The hope is that families or friends will

claim the bodies for interment elsewhere, but it is only a thin hope that more than half of the 900 will be so claimed. That would leave 400 or 500 to be put to rest in some other manner.

Mayor Charles A. Legates Jr. has suggested that the unclaimed bodies be cremated and the ashes scattered at sea, which is how the family of the Rev. Jim Jones has asked that his remains be disposed of. That may or may not be appropriate; the decision is ultimately that of the federal authorities. But they should not ask a small community like Dover (or even the Air Force Base) which is far away from California where the Jones cult was based, and farther from Guayana, where the ultimate tragedy was played out, to be the permanent monument to this horror.

■ ■ ■

While we are on this sad subject, words of public commendation should be said for the airlift personnel and for the soldiers of the Army Graves Registration units who handled the gruesome job of collecting the bodies at Jonestown, flying them to Dover AFB, making whatever identifications were possible and doing whatever else was necessary.

While work like this is part of their military duty in wartime, the circumstances of this mission performed in peacetime were extraordinarily onerous. Their facilities were strained beyond capacity, and the conditions under which they were asked to work put the job far beyond the normal call of duty. Yet they performed with dispatch and efficiency.

It is not too much to ask that President Carter take

After Jonestown Comes Remorse, Relief and Fear

By PAUL BRINKLEY ROGERS
Gannett News Service

Tim and Mike Carter are alive today because they carried a suitcase of money out of the jungle on the day of the mass deaths at Jonestown, Guyana.

Paul Brinkley Rogers of Gannett News Service interviewed them, the only reporters to sit with them for any length of time. First in a series of articles (Profile of another Jones town family begins on Page 25).

They talked about their childhoods and how they had to join the Peoples Temple. They talked about its strange mix of fundamentalist Christianity, Marxism-Leninism, and a "revolutionary" religion. They told how they had "excused" from killing themselves when they were ordered by Jim Jones, the Peoples Temple leader, to carry a suitcase full of money out of the jungle. Finally, they agreed to be interviewed by just this reporter.

The two brothers talked for four hours. While they were doing so, they drank four beers each and talked about their father, Mike, not knowing whether he knew that their sister, Terri, 24, had died in the Jones "excused" from killing themselves when they were ordered by Jim Jones, the Peoples Temple leader, to carry a suitcase full of money out of the jungle. Finally, they agreed to be interviewed by just this reporter.

See DIGNITY — Page 4, Col

She finds all 408 'very still'

By FETER ARNETT

Georgetown, Guyana — (AP) — A crippled 76-year-old California woman who slept through the Jonestown mass suicide said yesterday she spent two days trying to awaken her dead sister before rescuers insisted she leave.

Hyacinth Thrush, one of the few people known to have survived the weekend of death that took more than 100 lives, said in an interview in her hotel room that she awoke on Sunday morning in her cottage thinking residents of the People's Temple settlement were sleeping.

The U.S. and Guyanese governments say 408 people died in the bizarre suicide ritual. Hundreds of other cult members are believed to have fled into the jungle. Thirty-one survivors have been located.

Miss Thrush said she dragged herself from her cottage to the elderly people's section of the Jonestown meeting pavilion and discovered "everyone very still."

"Some were sitting up with their eyes closed," she said. "Others were lying down. I saw my sister. I walked over and touched her to wake her up. She was very cold."

Miss Thrush, crippled with arthritis, said she had spent nearly a year at the settlement. She is from San Francisco.

She said her sister, Emma, came to her late Saturday afternoon and kissed her on the cheek before leaving.

"She didn't tell me anything of what might be happening. She was just very quiet," Miss Thrush said.

She said she went to sleep and heard nothing during the night Saturday. When she awoke, she said, she was surprised not to hear the usual grunting of the camp's pet gorilla, Mr. Mugsy.

"I saw no others around my bungalow and I presumed that they had had another long meeting and were resting at the pavilion. That had happened often enough before," she said.

She said she went outside about 11 A.M. Sunday because she was hungry. "Not a living soul was in view. I struggled along the path to the pavilion and was surprised no one was around."

"I was looking for the senior citizens' center and I managed to pull myself up the stairs. It was then that I saw all my people," she said.

She said she did not want to believe her sister was dead, and during the next two days she kept going back to the body to comfort her.

Her sister and most of the others had apparently drunk a fruit-flavored drink containing poison.

Miss Thrush said a settlement nurse found her Sunday afternoon and brought her some sandwiches from the kitchen.

Then the nurse ran off into the jungle where she said many others had fled. "I waited around and was joined by an old man who had also survived. I was taken out of the settlement by the police Tuesday morning."

She said she hopes to return to California soon.

The survivors located thus far were kept under protective custody in a government billet here until Thursday afternoon. Then they were allowed to move into a hotel.

Next of kin are claiming cult dead

By FRANK KRZYWICKI

DOVER — U.S. State Department officials at Dover Air Force Base are more optimistic that a large percentage of the 911 Guyana cadavers claimed by relatives.

That possibility in itself automatically would rule out the chance of corpses being "mass buried" in Delaware, a state department spokesman said.

Local residents and Delaware politicians, including Gov. Pierre S. du Pont and U.S. Sen. William V. Roth, have expressed vehement opposition to the "mass burial" idea.

Some, like du Pont, have urged state department officials to oppose any unclaimed or unidentified bodies winding up in Delaware graves.

"We've pretty much discounted the idea of a mass burial," state department lawyer Michael J. White said this morning.

"But that never was a strong possibility from the beginning," he said, adding that a meeting Wednesday with du Pont expressed that reassurance.

There are two reasons for the renewed optimism that many of the 911 corpses will be claimed.

Thursday the state department received from the Guyanese government fingerprints attached to names of all Peoples Temple cultists taken upon entry to Guyana.

Now teams working at the air base morgue to identify bodies will be able to match names and fingerprints supplied by Guyana with fingerprints taken on corpses this week, White said.

As of this morning, 99 bodies have been positively identified and 540 embalmed and processed by the team of forensic doctors from a Washington pathology institute, White said.

A sampling taken when there were 46 positively identified showed that 44 of them had been claimed by next of kin.

None of the bodies has left the base yet, and none will be moved until complicated legal questions regarding transport permits and death certificates can be answered, White said.

David S. Swayze, du Pont's legal counsel, said there are "serious questions" concerning burial of any of the bodies claimed or unclaimed in Delaware.

"It would be a massive responsibility, and a very expensive one" to accept a large number of bodies for burial in Delaware, he said.

Another problem with the law is that we're not talking about Delawareans.

If some next of kin who claim the dead relatives and request they be buried in Delaware, then assume we can square the necessary documents, it would be conceivable, Swayze said.

Dover allowed to ship bodies

The state Attorney General's office yesterday ruled that relatives of the Guyana massacre victims can have the bodies removed from Dover Air Force Base for burial elsewhere.

State law prohibits the removal of bodies from the state without permission of local health officials, but Assistant Attorney General Edward F. Kafader found that federal documents can supplant that requirement.

The documents which must accompany each body in ship-

ment, were prepared by the Solicitor General of Guyana and validated by the U.S. Justice Department. They verify that the bodies were legally removed from Guyanese jurisdiction.

David S. Swayze, legal counsel to Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV, said he expected funeral directors who have been contacted by relatives to begin transporting the bodies from Dover today.

The ruling yesterday made no mention of how to legally dispose of bodies that may remain unidentified or unclaimed.

Evening Journal, Wilmington, Del., Thursday, December 14, 1978

U.S. Aircraft Requested

Ship Bodies to Calif., Du Pont Asks Carter

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — Gov. Pierre S. du Pont IV has joined California Congresswomen Yvonne Brathwaite Burke in asking for military aircraft to take the bodies of Guyana murder-suicide victims from Dover to California.

Du Pont made his request in a telegram to President Carter.

A White House spokesman yesterday wouldn't predict what the response might be, but he said, "as you know, we have been soundly blistered by the public for paying to get the bodies from Guyana to here."

In his telegram, which du Pont said was sent at Rep. Burke's request, the governor said many families want their relatives' remains shipped home for burial but can't afford the cost. Du Pont asked Carter's help in "making military aircraft available to remove all victims to California, the

of the religious cult responsible for the appropriate disposition of its members."

Du Pont and other officials have opposed the burial of any unclaimed bodies in Delaware. Although the disposition of unclaimed or unidentified bodies hasn't been decided yet, the U.S. State Department has agreed there will be no "mass burial" here.

A Dover Air Force Base spokesman said yesterday the official number of Guyana victims' remains brought to the base has been raised from 911 to 913. A paperwork error produced the earlier figure, he said. All the bodies have been embalmed.

Of the total, 624 had been identified as of yesterday, and the process of removing claimed bodies speeded up. Forty-four bodies left the base yesterday, bring to 72 the number shipped since removal began on Saturday, a base spok-

Death certificates could free bodies

By MARK MATTHEWS
Dover Bureau

DOVER — The U.S. State Department has received death certificates for nearly two-thirds of the Guyana mass death victims, opening the way for a possible break in the deadlock over disposing of some bodies in Delaware.

A department spokesman said 599 death certificates for identified bodies arrived in Washington yesterday.

Delaware officials have said they won't consider allowing any bodies of the Jonestown murder suicide to be disposed of in Delaware until they see documents giving a cause of death.

Edward F. Kafader, the assistant attorney general representing the state, said last night, "Death certificates would certainly be very helpful in providing the needed documentation."

"I imagine they're anxious to present them to Delaware officials," said Kafader, who said he had not been told of their arrival. Also expected, he said, was a report on results of a Guyana coroner's inquest.

But he said more information might still be needed.

Still uncertain, he said, was whether the state medical examiner should investigate the deaths further before burial or cremation is allowed in Delaware.

Autopsies were performed at the base on only seven of the 913 bodies brought here after cult leader Jim Jones' led People's Temple members in a death ritual last Nov. 18.

As of yesterday, 631 bodies remained on the base, stored in three bays of a hangar. Embalmed and in caskets, they are not

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Bodies—

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affected by variations in temperature, an official said.

Despite demands that the U.S. airlift remaining bodies to California, the State Department says it has "no plans" for such large-scale movement.

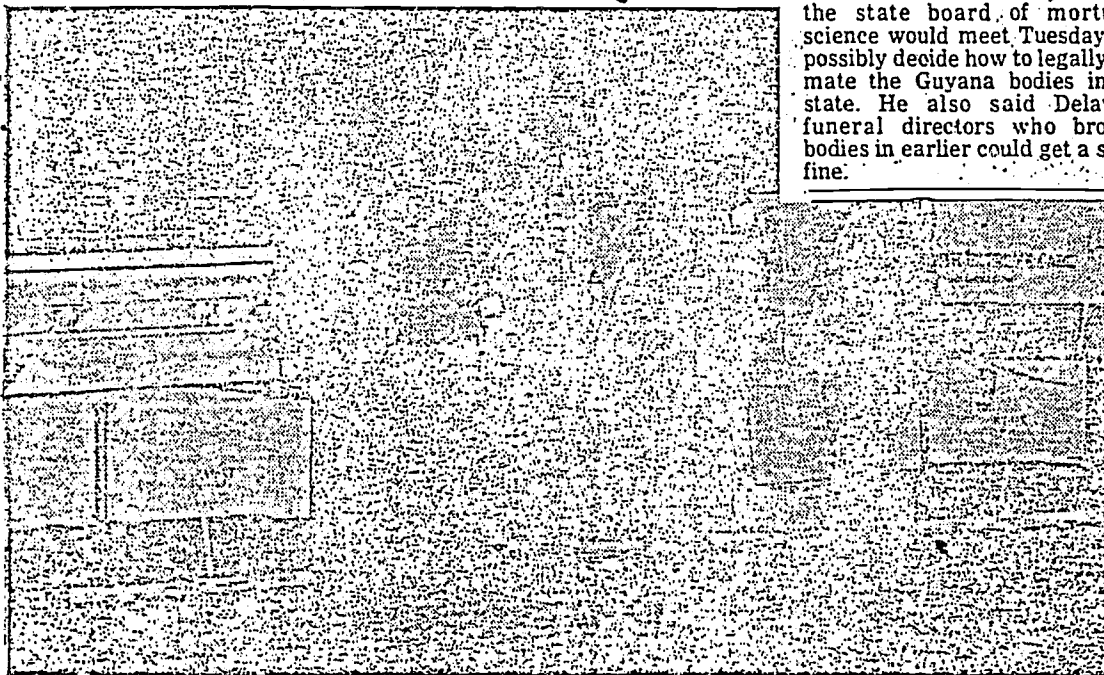
Department lawyer Charles M. Wyman, who is assigned to the base, said yesterday the federal government "has neither the legal authority nor the funds to transport the bodies out of the state."

"I don't know what the solution is going to be," Wyman said. "Obviously there's going to be a solution. We can't leave them there in the hangar."

Of the 282 bodies released, many have been shipped to next of kin out of state, at relatives' expense.

After 29 others, including that of Jones, were cremated in New Jersey, officials there said state regulations had been violated. This brought New Jersey cremations to at least a temporary halt.

New Jersey Deputy Attorney General Charles J. Mysak said the state board of mortuary science would meet Tuesday and possibly decide how to legally cremate the Guyana bodies in the state. He also said Delaware funeral directors who brought bodies in earlier could get a small fine.



Dover Air Force Base personnel remove the body of a Peoples Temple cult member from a storage hangar at the base yesterday after the body was claimed by relatives. (Staff photo by Kevin Fleming)